The journey of Balsa, the female bodyguard

闇の守り人

Nemuki+ Comics

原作・上橋菜穂子
漫画・結布

3

Moribito II: Guardian of the darkness
Volume Three
Story by Nahoko Uehashi
Comicalized by Yu

びっこ

朝日新聞出版
Published by Asahi Shimbun Publications Inc.

Yami no Moribito

"Guardian of the Darkness"

By Uehashi Nahoko

Illustrated by Yuu

Scanlation:
Lovely Strange Dark
LSD.mangadex.com

Chapter Eleven

Raws: Kalendel
Translation: Den
Editing: Samara &
Nutritious Milk
QC: Ianu

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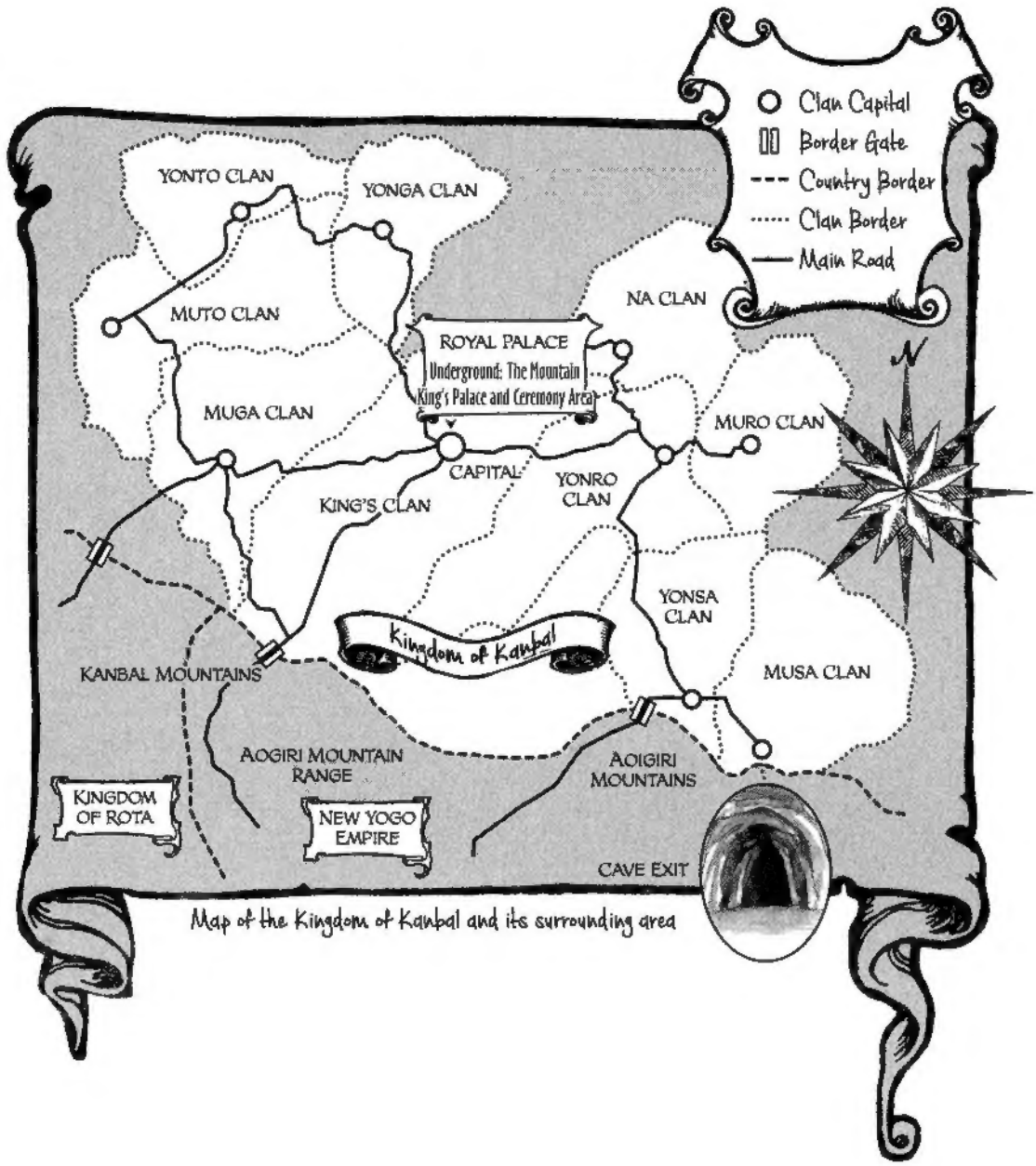
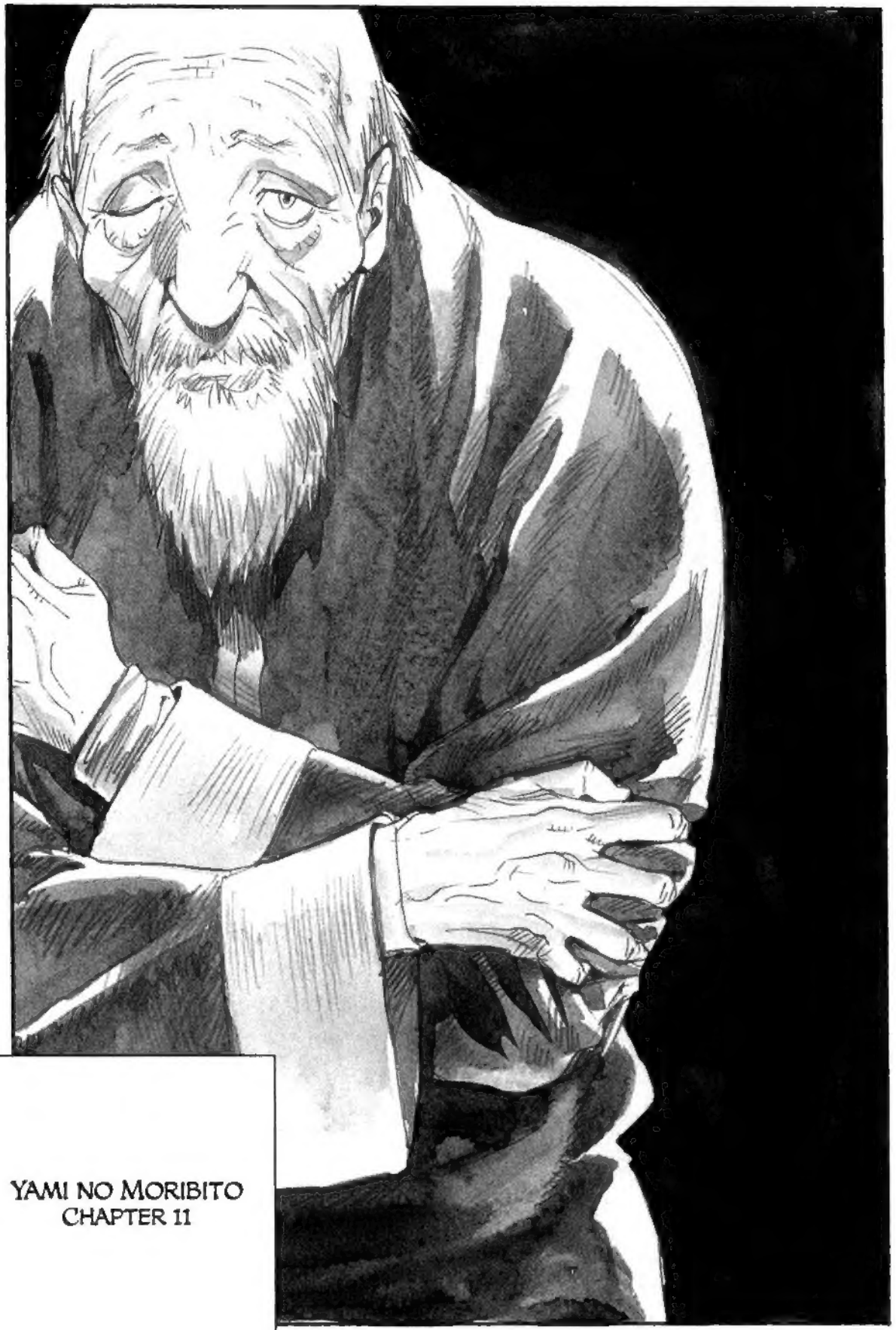
Yami no Moribito 3

Author Uehashi Nahoko

Illustrator Yuu



Map of the Kingdom of Kanbal and its surrounding area



YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 11

I'LL BE GOING.
WELL THEN, DAD.
AH!
NO...!
DON'T GO, TAGURU...
NO...

IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT OUTRAGEOUS STORY YUKA TOLD ME.
BECAUSE PREPARA-TIONS FOR THE LUISHA GIVING CEREMONY ARE UNDER-WAY.
I'M NOT JUST HAVING THIS DREAM

SIX DAYS EARLIER
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
?
YUKA?!
H... HOLD ON.
BAM
LALOOG!!

PLEASE SAVE MY NIECE, BALSA.
BALSA...

WHAT'S GOTTEN YUKA IN SUCH A PANIC? SHE'S USUALLY SO CALM NO MATTER THE SITUATION.

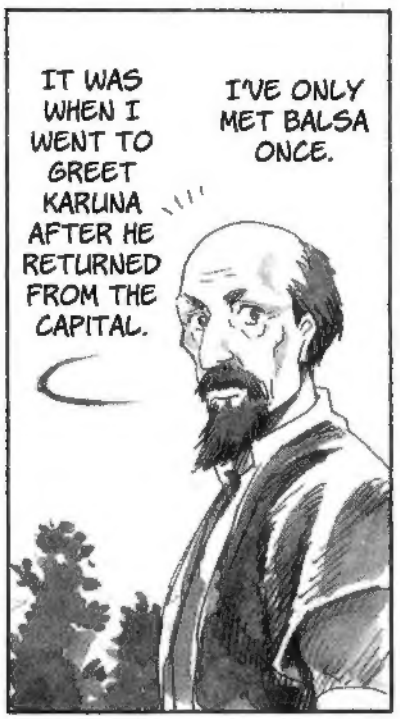
... WHAT?

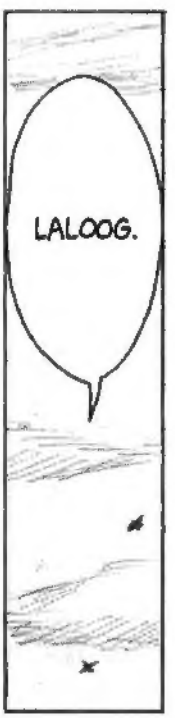
BALSA IS ALIVE.
SHE WAS SAVED BY JIGURO MUSA.

BALSA... YOUR BROTHER KARUNA'S DAUGHTER?
SHE DIED 25 YEARS AGO...

I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE IT'S BALSA.
PLEASE BELIEVE ME.

JIGURO, THE MAN WHO KILLED MY SON ....?


IT WAS WHEN I WENT TO GREET KARUNA AFTER HE RETURNED FROM THE CAPITAL.
I'VE ONLY MET BALSA ONCE.


LALOOG.

I'M SURE YOU'D AGREE ONCE YOU SEE HER.

OH, KARUNA!
YOU'RE BACK!
Karuna!
It's Karuna!
Whoa!
I'M FINE, THANK YOU.
SO HOW'S LIFE IN THE CAPITAL?
WE ARE ALL SO PROUD THAT THE KING'S PHYSICIAN IS FROM THE YONSA CLAN.
GO ON, BALSA. SAY HELLO.
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, BALSA.

...THOSE WERE THE GOOD TIMES.
Hahaha
Hahaha
SHE LOOKS MORE LIKE YUKA WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD THAN YOU!
SHE BROKE HER ARM CLIMBING UP A TREE...
AND TAGURU, WHO NEVER CAME BACK AFTER SETTING OFF TO FIND JIGURO...
KARUNA'S MURDER.
JIGURO'S ESCAPE.
THE KING'S SUDDEN DEATH.
BUT A SERIES OF TRAGEDIES HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN.
MM...
UH...
Creak
.....

JUST LIKE THIS, I'M INCHING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO DEATH.
I CAN BARELY MOVE MY BODY.
...NO, MORE IMPORTANTLY...
Squeeze
I DIDN'T THINK I'D LIVE TO 70 YEARS.
KNOCK KNOCK
LALOOG,
YUKA IS HERE.
LET HER IN.
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, AND THIS ENTIRE TRAGEDY
SPRANG FROM A PLOT HATCHED BY KING ROGSAM...

YES... THANK YOU.
OKAY, LET'S TREAT YOUR JOINTS.
SHE HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT YET.
.....
YES. MEMBERS OF OUR CLAN JOINED UP WITH HIM. THEY'LL REACH YONRO TERRITORY BY TOMORROW.
I HEARD YUGURO MUSA HAS ALREADY PASSED THROUGH YONSA TERRITORY ON HIS WAY TO THE CAPITAL FOR THE LUISHA GIVING CEREMONY.

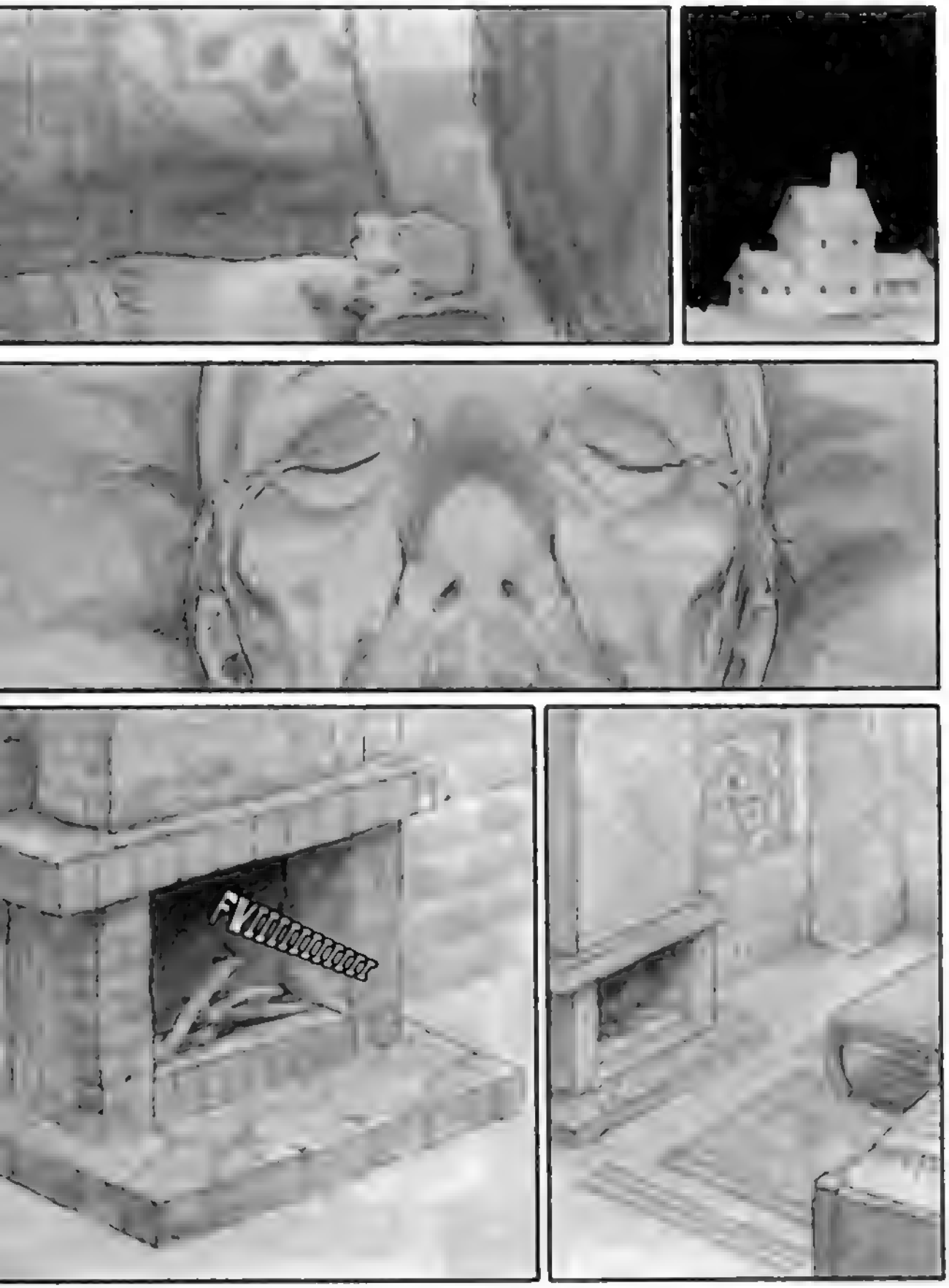
YUKA...
...I'M SURE KAGURO WILL LISTEN TO YOU NOW THAT YUGURO IS GONE.
KAGURO IS PROBABLY STARTING TO FEEL UNCERTAIN ABOUT IT BY NOW.
GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS CHANCE.
I HEARD THAT YUGURO LEFT BEHIND KAGURO'S SON, KAHM, AND TOOK HIS OWN SON SHISHEEM INSTEAD.
KAHM HIMSELF JUST ENTERED YONSA TERRITORY THIS MORNING.

GOSSIP ALWAYS SEEMS TO POP UP IN THE CLINIC WAITING ROOM.
YOU HEAR EVERY-THING.
YOU DO REALIZE THAT ONCE THE AVALANCHE STARTS, I'LL BE TOO OLD AND WEAK TO STOP IT, DON'T YOU?
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO START AN AVALANCHE BETWEEN THE YONSA AND THE MUSA CLANS?
YOU'RE THE CLAN ELDER.
THE PEOPLE OF THE CLAN ARE YOUR CHILDREN.
...ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND BACK AND LET YOUR CHILDREN DIE?
I CAN'T DO SOMETHING THAT DANGEROUS WHEN IT DOESN'T EVEN BENEFIT THE CLAN.

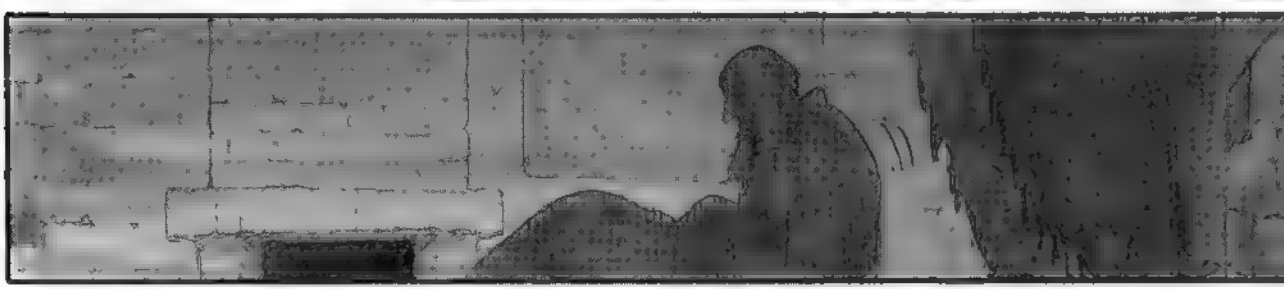
FOR NOTHING MORE THAN HIS GREED?
THE MAN WHO SENT TAGURU TO HIS DEATH WITHOUT A THOUGHT?
WILL YOU REALLY FORGIVE THE MAN WHO LET THE BEST YOUNG MEN IN YOUR CLAN DIE
...EVEN NOW, I HATE THE MAN WHO KILLED MY BROTHER.
I CAN STILL REMEMBER SEEING HIS EMPTY EYES AS HE STARED INTO SPACE.
IF I AM TO ACCUSE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN KANBAL,
WHERE IS THE INCONTROVERTIBLE PROOF THAT WILL MAKE EVERYONE BELIEVE ME?
HUH?
WHERE IS YOUR PROOF?

BALSA WITNESSED IT!
WILL YOU LET YUGURO KILL THE ONE WITNESS TO ALL THIS?
AND WHAT I'M SAYING IS THERE'S NO PROOF THAT SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!
...HOW MANY TIMES ARE WE GOING TO HAVE THE SAME CONVERSATION, YUKA?
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT NOTHING CAN BE DONE.
.....
CLENCH

Glare
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TIMES.
DO YOU THINK I'LL STAND BACK AND LET MY ONLY NIECE BE KILLED?


FVIIIIIIIIIIII

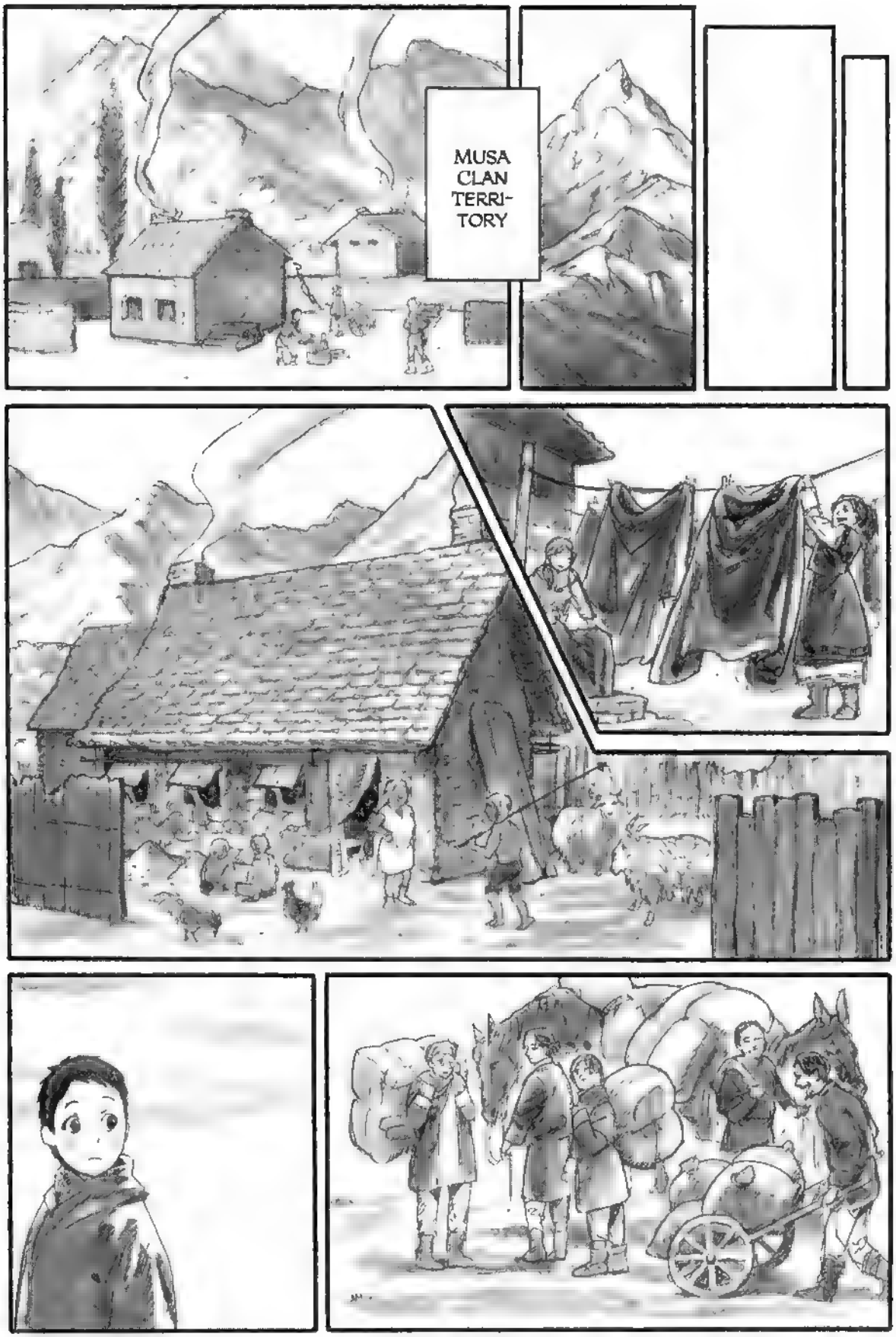
FWIII

THE PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAIN KING HAVE COME
AND ARE CALLING OUT!


CLICK

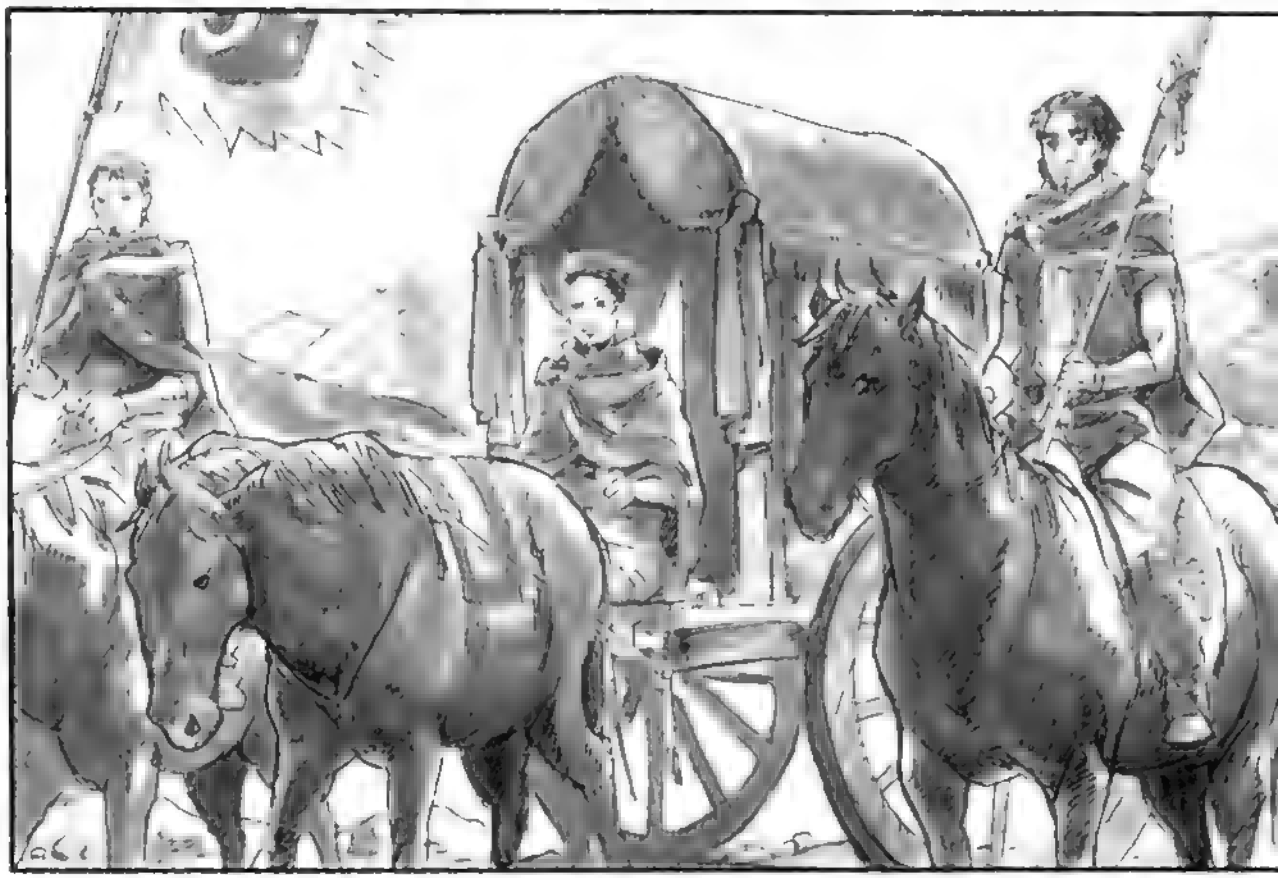
RUSTLE

OHHHH...
...IT'S THE PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAIN KING.
fwoosh
WELCOME!
PLEASE COME IN!


MUSA
CLAN
TERRI-
TORY

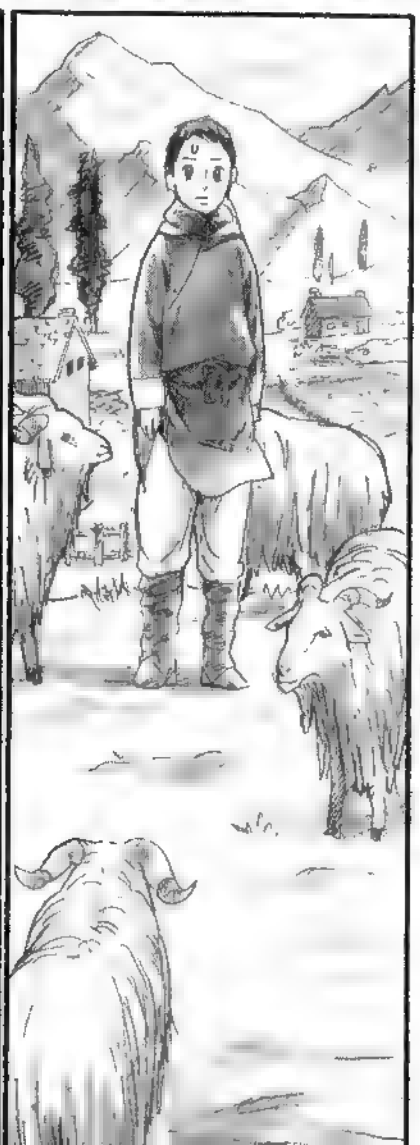
THANK YOU, TONNO!
ARE YOU SURE?
NEW BOOTS FOR EVERYONE?
DAD...
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO BE CONSIDERATE, TONNO.
I'D LIKE TO TAKE CREDIT, BUT... THIS IS ALL FROM THE REWARD KAGURO GAVE ME.
IT WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT REAPING ALL THE BENEFIT FOR MYSELF.
whoosh
SHOVE
OW!
stomp

whoosh
...THEY'RE HERE.



SO IT'S JUST AS ELDER TOTO SAID. THE CHIEF OF YONSA HAS COME TO MEET KAGURO.
flap
flap

...I HOPE IT ALL GOES WELL.



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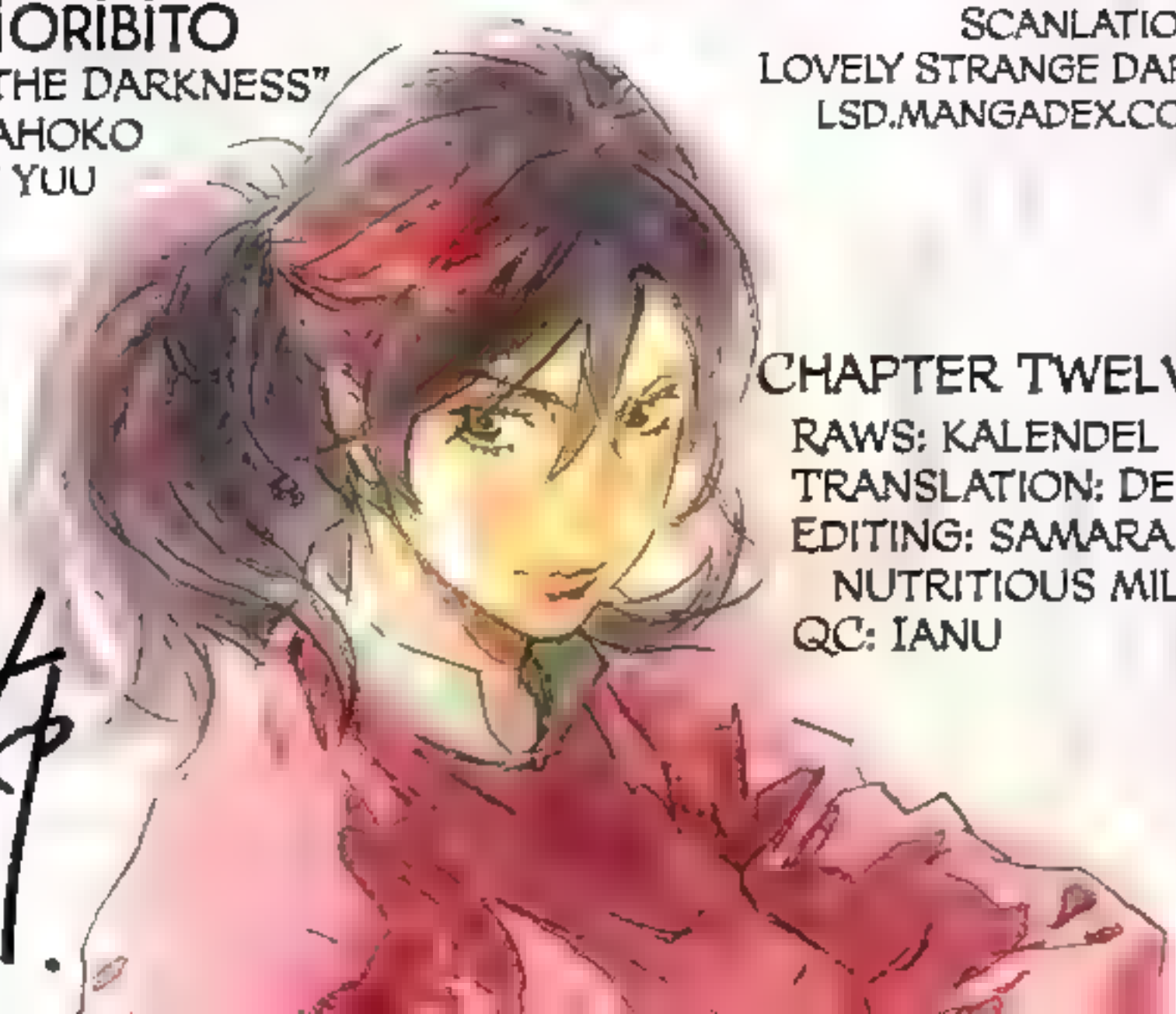


Chapter Twelve

Raws: Kalendel
Translation: Den
Editing: Samara &
Nutritious Milk
QC: Ianu

YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 12

.....
PRRRR
Clop
Clop

KAGURO,
I APOLOGIZE FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
NOT AT ALL. WELCOME, COME IN.
PLEASE HEAD TO THE INNER CHAMBERS.
WE WILL PREPARE A WELCOME DINNER.

LALOOG ONCE ATTENDED A GIVING CEREMONY AS A KING'S SPEAR.
WHY IS HE HERE...?
NO, KAGURO.
I SEE...
THEN LET'S HEAD TO MY ROOM.
I'VE COME TO DISCUSS SOMETHING CONFIDENTIAL.
.....

creak
clack
I'M SORRY, AND YOU ARE?
flip
RUSTLE

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS BALSA OF THE YONSA CLAN.
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF KARUNA, AND THE ADOPTED DAUGHTER OF JIGURO.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
WHA...?!
DUN

THIS WOMAN IS A CRIMINAL WHO'S DRAGGED MY CLAN'S NAME THROUGH THE MUD. I ASKED YOU TO CAPTURE HER!!
WHY IS SHE...?!
KAGURO, LET ME SPEAK.
WILL YOU TRUST ME?
IT'S A LONG STORY.
A DREADFUL TALE. THE FUTURE OF KANBAL RESTS ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU BELIEVE ME.
PLEASE LISTEN WITH AN OPEN MIND.

THE SHEPHERDS GUIDED ME THROUGH THE CAVES FROM THE CRAGS TO YONSA TERRITORY TO SEE LALOOG.
THREE NIGHTS AGO,
YUKA HAS BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM ALL ALONG.
BUT SURPRISINGLY, HE BELIEVED EVERYTHING.
I WAS WORRIED THAT HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE OUR STORY ABOUT THE KING'S PLOT IN KANBAL.

LALOOG SPOKE CALMLY.
THAT MY FATHER, KARUNA, WAS KING NAGURU'S PHYSICIAN.
THAT HE WAS FRIENDS WITH JIGURO.
ROGSAM'S CRUEL PLAN.
AND THEN JIGURO TOOK A YOUNG BALSA AND FLED TO YOGO.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BALSA?
YES.

WE FLED TO YOGO... IT WAS A HARD LIFE...
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT THIS STORY IS TRUE?
JUST THAT THIS WOMAN IS DEFINITELY KARUNA'S DAUGHTER, BALSA.
MY HEALER, YUKA, IS BALSA'S AUNT. JUST ONE LOOK AT BOTH OF THEM AND YOU KNOW THEY'RE RELATED.
THAT I CAN GUARANTEE.

THEN KARUNA WAS HIMSELF KILLED IN A HORRIFYING WAY.
YUKA IS A DOCTOR, AND SHE SAW THE WOUNDS THAT KILLED HER BROTHER.
...BUT...
AS I SAID, KARUNA TOLD YUKA THAT BALSA WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT.

I KNOW VERY WELL THAT THIS IS WEAK EVIDENCE.
BUT TRY TO REMEMBER, KAGURO,
HOW THINGS WERE BACK THEN.
THE KIND OF MAN KING ROGSAM WAS,
AND THE KIND OF MAN JIGURO WAS.

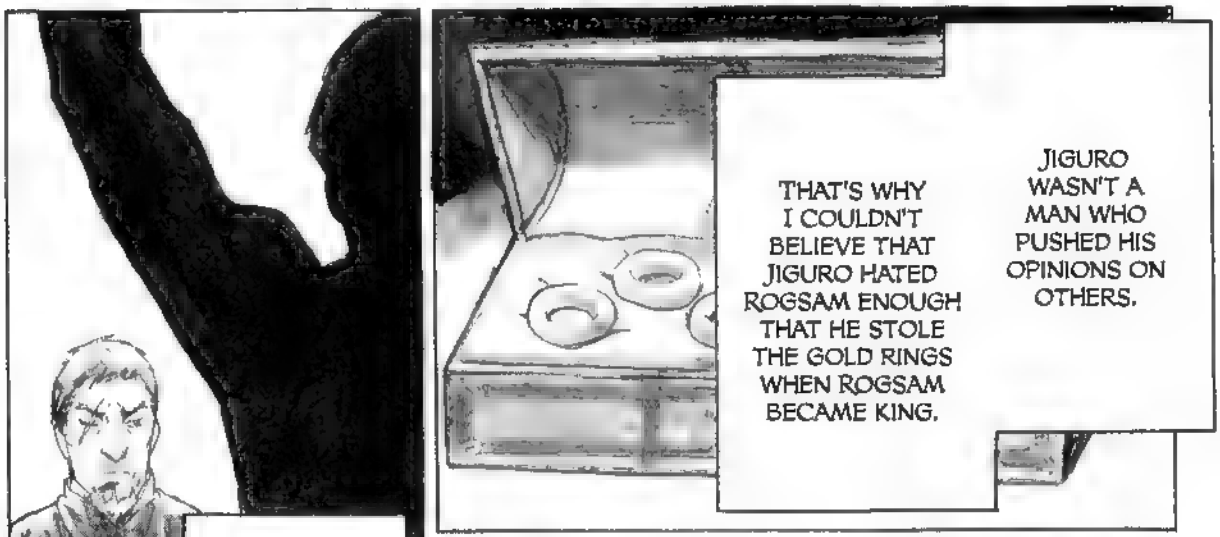
FATHER.
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER, KAGURO.
Hya!
Ha!
.....

WHAP
BUT...

WHOOSH

fwsh
...HIS SKILLS ARE SO ELEGANT IT'S FRIGHTENING TO BEHOLD.
HE'S A GENIUS. MY FATHER WAS A SPEARDANCER, AND HE INHERITED THAT TALENT.
DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO JIGURO.
Whee!
Whee!
YUGURO.
YUGURO.
stare

JIGURO TOOK CARE OF YUGURO, WHO DIDN'T HAVE A QUIET BONE IN HIS BODY.
HEY THERE...
GOOD BOY.
Whee! Whee!
JIGURO WAS QUIET AND AWKWARD, AND YUGURO WAS HIS COMPLETE OPPOSITE. HE WAS A CHEERFUL BOY WHO DREW PEOPLE IN.
Smile


JIGURO WASN'T A MAN WHO PUSHED HIS OPINIONS ON OTHERS.
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT JIGURO HATED ROGSAM ENOUGH THAT HE STOLE THE GOLD RINGS WHEN ROGSAM BECAME KING.

JIGURO WOULD NEVER LOSE TO YUGURO IN A REAL FIGHT.
IT WAS DEVASTATING FOR JIGURO TO BE KILLED BY HIS YOUNGER BROTHER.

WHEN YUGURO VOLUNTEERED TO CAPTURE JIGURO, IT BROKE MY HEART.

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS THINKING.
AFTER THAT, YUGURO LIVED IN THE CAPITAL AS A HERO.

IF THEIR ROLES HAD BEEN REVERSED, AND JIGURO HAD NEEDED TO KILL HIM, JIGURO WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHOW HIS FACE AFTERWARD.
HE WOULD HAVE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY-SIDE AND LIVED QUIETLY WHILE MOURNING HIS BROTHER...

...IF ALL THIS IS TRUE, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT IT?
Haa
HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE JIGURO.
AH...
TELLING YOU ABOUT THE LIFE HE LED, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR MY TRIP HERE TO BE WORTH IT.
JUST TELLING YOU THAT YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER WASN'T A COWARD,
I DON'T HAVE PROOF, AND NOTHING I DO WILL EVER BRING BACK JIGURO.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, IS THERE?
HE DIDN'T NEED TO DO THAT. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ANYWAY.
YUGURO WANTED TO KILL ME BADLY ENOUGH THAT HE HAD MY OPPONENT'S SPEAR POISONED.

BUT I CAN'T MAKE THIS PUBLIC.
IF YOU GIVE ME A WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT YOU WILL NEVER RETURN TO KANBAL,
I WILL LET YOU GO BACK TO NEW YOGO.
I... BELIEVE YOU.
WHY NOT?
ACTUALLY, I CAN'T LEAVE KANBAL YET.

THERE'S STILL ONE JOB
I HAVE TO DO.

KAGURO, WHAT IS THIS...?
KAGURO, TONNO AND HIS SON ARE HERE.
KNOCK KNOCK

I CAN'T SAY I AGREE WITH SENDING KASSA AND BALSA TO THE SITE OF THE LUISHA GIVING CEREMONY.
I FEEL LIKE THIS IS ALL TOO CONVENIENT.
IF YOU GO TO THE CEREMONY AREA UNDER THE GUISE OF PROTECTING KASSA,
IT WILL BE THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR YOU TO GET YOUR REVENGE ON YUGURO.
...TO BE HONEST,
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HEY, HEY.
DO YOU THINK I'D LIE ABOUT ALL THIS JUST SO BALSA CAN CARRY OUT HER PERSONAL VENDETTA?!
NO... LONG AGO, AS MY FATHER WAS DYING, HE TOLD ME
THAT HE WOULD MAKE ME CHIEF OF THE CLAN, BUT FOR ANYTHING RELATING TO THE MOUNTAIN KING, I SHOULD DEFER TO JIGURO'S JUDGMENT.

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE SHEPHERDS CAME FROM THE MOUNTAIN DEEP... OR THAT THEY WERE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON US.
BECAUSE JIGURO HAD SEEN THE MOUNTAIN KING IN THE DEPTHS OF THE MOUN-TAINS
AND KNEW THE SECRETS HIDDEN FROM THE REST OF KANBAL...
YUGURO IS AN EXCELLENT SPEARMAN.
YOU CAN'T BE SURE THAT THE HYOHLU WILL DEFEAT HIM.
EVEN IF THE STORY ABOUT THE SHEPHERDS IS TRUE, WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF KANBAL.
LALOOG.
IF WE BASE THIS SOLELY ON WHAT WILL BRING PROSPERITY TO KANBAL, THEN DOESN'T YUGURO HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA?

IF HE SUCCEEDS, AND WE TAKE ALL THE LUISHA WE WANT...
KAGURO,
THAT IS A RECKLESS AND FOOLISH DREAM.
I'VE BEEN TO A GIVING CEREMONY. I KNOW HOW FEARSOME THE HYOHLU ARE.
THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCE THAT A DANCER HARBORING EVIL INTENTIONS CAN DEFEAT A HYOHLU IN THE DARKNESS OF THE MOUNTAIN DEEP!
...BESIDES, THE MOUNTAIN KING IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK HE IS.

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT I SAW IN THE MOUNTAIN DEEP.
WE TOOK A VOW OF SILENCE. BUT EVEN IF WE DIDN'T...
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PUT WHAT I SAW INTO WORDS.
CLENCH
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO BELIEVE ME, BUT JUST UNDERSTAND.
THE LUISHA ISN'T JUST A NORMAL GEM. INVADING THE MOUNTAIN TO GET MORE LUISHA
IS LIKE SQUEEZING A GOAT TO DEATH TO GET MORE MILK!!

gulp
IF THE MOUNTAIN KING DIES, SO WILL KANBAL.
LIKEWISE, THE LUISHA IS A GEM THAT CAN ONLY BE SHARED WHEN THE TIME COMES.
WHEN GOATS GIVE BIRTH, THEY SHARE THEIR MILK WITH US.
BUT SURELY YOU TAUGHT HIM ABOUT THE CEREMONY, RIGHT?
OF COURSE EVERYONE WHO WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONY THIS YEAR HAS NEVER BEEN TO ONE BEFORE,
...BUT I DON'T THINK YUGURO IS THAT FOOLISH.

I COULDN'T TELL YUGURO BECAUSE HE HAD NEVER BEEN TO A CEREMONY.
HE SHOWS HIMSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER THE DANCER COMPLETES THE SPEAR-DANCE.
BUT I DIDN'T TELL HIM THE MOUNTAIN KING'S TRUE FORM.
I TOLD HIM HOW THE CEREMONY PROGRESSES, AND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE DARKNESS.
OF COURSE I DID.
IT'S THAT HE IS A TERRIBLY COLD-HEARTED MAN.
IT'S NOT THAT YUGURO IS FOOLISH.
HE ALSO DIDN'T TELL THE OTHER KING'S SPEARS WHAT I TOLD HIM.
YUGURO PLANNING TO ATTACK THE MOUNTAIN DEEP MEANS THAT HE'S NOT TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY.
ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE TOO LATE...
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT NOW.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
YOU THINK KASSA CAN STOP A PLAN THAT YUGURO SPENT SO MUCH TIME WORKING OUT?
IT'S NOT...
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING THIS,
DAD!!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
MAKING MY SON DO THIS IS A JOKE!!
AND IF OUR CLANS MOBILIZE AND STAND AGAINST THE KING, WE WILL ALL BE TRAITORS.
BUT EVEN IF KAHM BELIEVES KASSA, THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN STOP YUGURO, LET ALONE THE KING.

MANY HYOHLU WILL EMERGE FROM THE DARKNESS AND READ THE HEARTS OF THE ASSEMBLED MEN.
WHEN THE HYOHLU APPEAR, THE CEREMONY AREA BECOMES SHROUDED IN DARKNESS.
...THEN IT'S ALL FOR NOTHING, AFTER ALL.
BUT IF THE HYOHLU DETECT HOSTILITY, THEY'LL ATTACK AT FIRST SIGHT...
YUGURO IS GOOD AT DECEIVING PEOPLE, SO HE PROBABLY THINKS HE CAN DO THE SAME HERE.
YUGURO WILL DIE. WE WILL NOT GET THE LUISHA, AND KANBAL WILL STARVE.

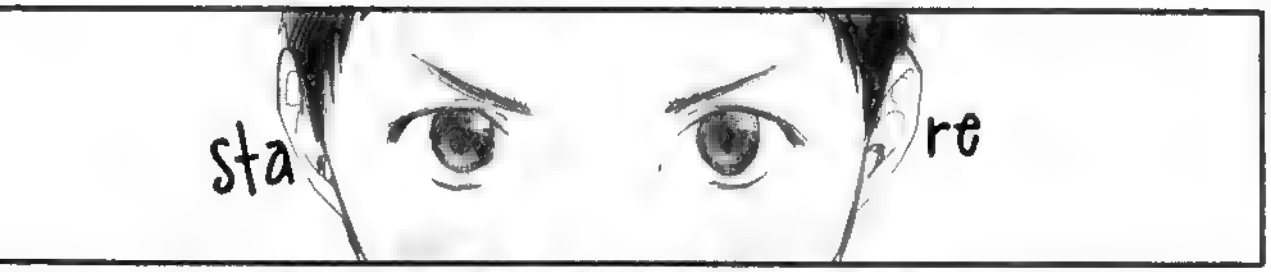
HOW BIG IS THE CEREMONY AREA?
THINK OF THE SPACE AS LARGE ENOUGH THAT 20 MEN CAN FORM A CIRCLE.
THE KING, HIS NINE KING'S SPEARS, AND THE ATTENDANTS MAKE UP 20 PEOPLE. THEY FORM A RING ALONG THE STONE WALLS WHILE THE COMPETITION TAKES PLACE IN THE MIDDLE.
...
HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU THINK WILL SWITCH TO OUR SIDE WHEN THEY READ YOUR LETTER?
SO EVEN IF THERE'S AN ARMY WAITING OUTSIDE, THERE ARE ONLY 20 IN THE VENUE ITSELF?

JUST TWO... WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THAT.
U, UM...
...PRO-BABLY KAHM
AND MY GRANDSON, DAHGU.
I GOT THE FEELING THAT HE WAS KIND OF SCARED OF THE CEREMONY,
I MET KAHM THE NIGHT BEFORE HE LEFT FOR THE CAPITAL.
AND I KNOW THAT HE ISN'T A COWARD.

KAHM TOLD ME THAT HE'S DOING THIS FOR KANBAL BECAUSE WE'RE SO POOR.
I'M SURE THE OTHER WARRIORS ARE ALSO FEELING UNEASY.
IF SOMEONE LIKE LALOOG, WHO'S BEEN TO A CEREMONY BEFORE, WARNS THEM ABOUT THIS WHEN THEY'RE ALREADY UNEASY,
THEN MAYBE WE CAN SWAY THEM.
.....
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS TAKE THE RISK THAT SOME OF THEM WILL JOIN US.
IT'S LIKE STOPPING A HERD OF GOATS BEFORE THEY FALL OFF A CLIFF.
DAD SAID THEY WOULD SEE US AS TRAITORS, BUT NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

KASSA, YOU...
GRAB
NO MATTER WHAT,
I WANT TO SEE KAHM AGAIN!

PLEASE LET ME GO!!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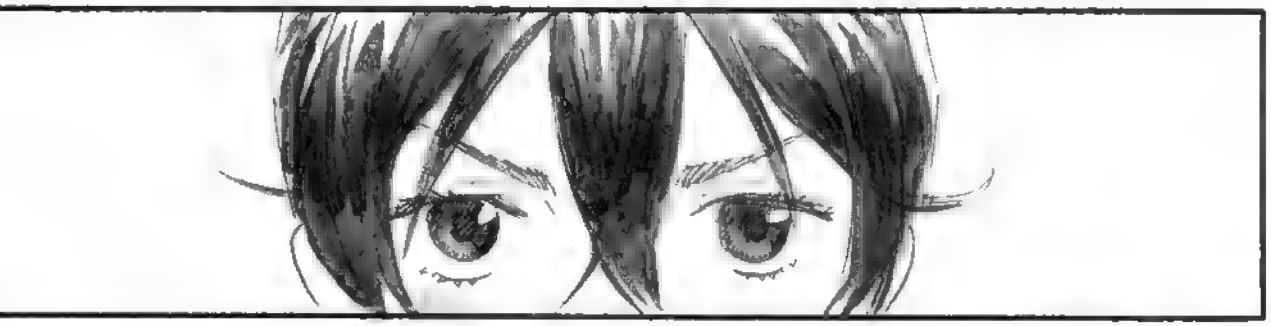
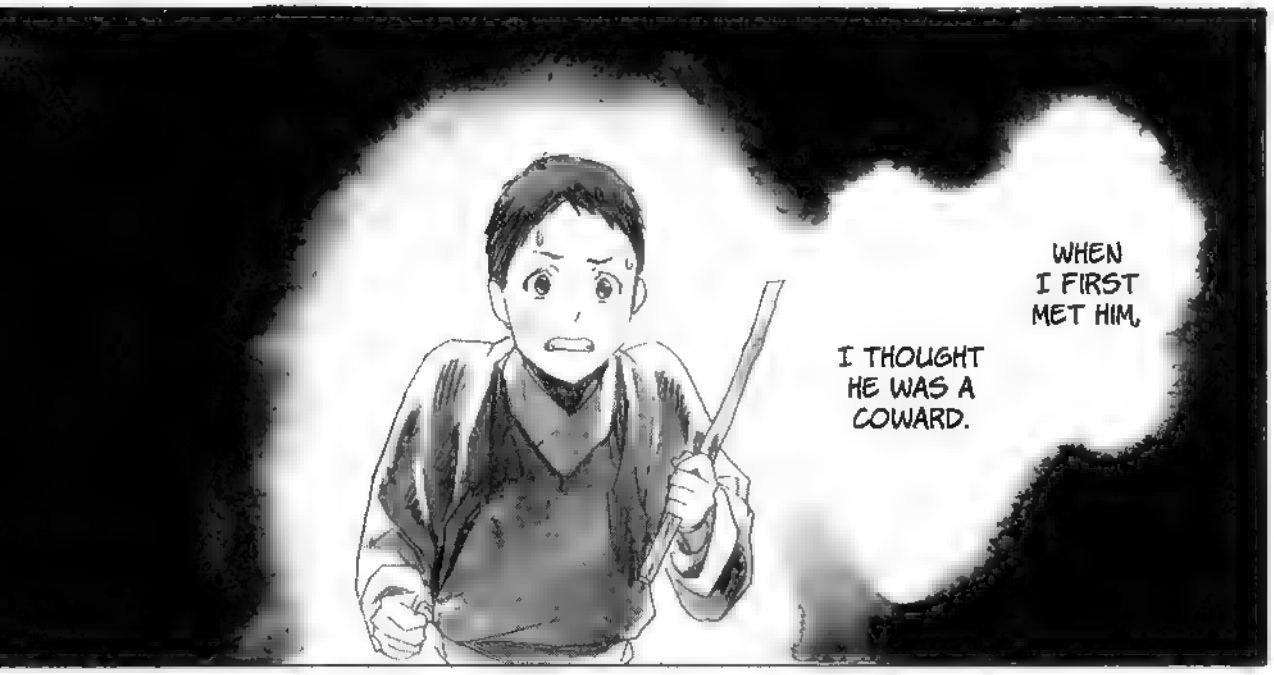



WHEN I FIRST MET HIM,
I THOUGHT HE WAS A COWARD.

THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE.
SIGH

OTHERWISE KASSA WILL PROBABLY ASK THE SHEPHERDS FOR HELP OR GO THERE ALONE.
LET'S DO IT.
IF YOU'RE THAT DETER-MINED ABOUT IT, THEN LET'S RISK IT ALL.
PROMISE ME THIS.
IF WE CAN'T CONVINCE THEM, THEN DO AS I SAY AND RUN.
IN RETURN, KASSA,

YOU SWEAR?
YES.
I'D BE LYING IF I SWORE WE'D COME BACK ALIVE,
BUT I'D LIKE TO VISIT THE DARKNESS WHERE JIGURO ONCE SPEAR-DANCED.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE CEREMONY AREA LOOKS LIKE, SO I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING FOR SURE,
BUT I THINK I CAN AT LEAST HELP KASSA ESCAPE IN THE DARK-NESS.

I CAN'T PROMISE THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIM.
...BUT WHAT I CAN PROMISE YOU IS THIS:
I WON'T BE LEAVING THOSE CAVES
UNLESS KASSA IS AT MY SIDE.

Yami no Moribito

"Guardian of the Darkness"

By Uehashi Nahoko

Illustrated by Yuu

Scanlation:
Lovely Strange Dark
lsd.mangadex.com

Chapter Thirteen

Raws: Kalendel
Translation: Den
Editing: Samara &
Nutritious Milk
QC: Ianu

YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 13

laga = cheese

LISTEN,
DO NOT EVER LIGHT A FIRE INSIDE THE CAVES.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IN THE DARK WITH THE TOGAL LEAVES.
THERE'S TOGAL, LAGA, AND YUKKAL LEAVES INSIDE.
YOYO WILL GUIDE YOU TO THE YONSA CLAN.
IF YOU GET TOO COLD, EAT THE YUKKAL LEAVES.
THEY WILL WARM YOU UP FROM THE INSIDE.
YOU CAN ALSO RUB THEM AGAINST YOUR FEET.
?

Thank you.
SHEPHERDS FROM EACH CLAN'S TERRITORY WILL BE WAITING UP AHEAD. THEY'VE PREPARED FOOD FOR YOU.
THERE ARE ONLY FIVE DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE CEREMONY.
I WAS TOLD THAT THE CEREMONY AREA IS BELOW THE CAVES NEAR THE PALACE.
IT WILL BE FINE. LEAVE IT TO US.
Smile
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL GET THERE ON TIME SNEAKING AROUND UNDERGROUND ON FOOT?
IT TAKES TEN DAYS ON HORSEBACK TO REACH THE PALACE.

BUT PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T USE TOGAL ONCE YOU'RE INSIDE THE CEREMONY AREA.
BALSA, KASSA,
YOU CAN USE AS MUCH TOGAL AS YOU WANT WHEN YOU'RE IN THE CAVES,
WHY NOT?
IF YOU EVER SEE WHAT THE HYOHLU TRULY LOOK LIKE, YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE SURFACE.

KAGURO,
NOD
BALSA,
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY SON.
EVERYONE WHO IS BORN TO THE CLAN IS MY SON.
I WILL NEVER ABANDON KASSA TO PROTECT MY CLAN, EVEN IF IT MEANS GOING AGAINST THE KING.
IF KASSA RETURNS TO THE CLAN ALIVE, DO YOU PROMISE TO PROTECT HIM, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CAVES?
STARE

I WONDER WHAT YUGURO WILL SEE THERE.
IT IS SAID THAT IN THE DARKNESS OF THE MOUNTAIN DEEP, YOU CANNOT LIE TO YOUR HEART.
KASSA, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! DO YOUR BEST!
YOYO, I'M BEGGING YOU!
WELL THEN,
LET'S GO.
PAT

...I WONDER IF BALSA CAN PULL IT OFF.
BUT SOMETIMES IN THIS WORLD... A MYSTERIOUS THREAD TIES EVERYTHING TOGETHER.
DON'T YOU THINK?
I THINK FATE CALLED HER HERE,
THOUGH SHE YELLED AT ME FOR MAKING LIGHT OF IT LIKE THAT.
SHE'LL DO IT.
AND THIS SAME WINTER, THE CEREMONY WILL FINALLY BEGIN AFTER A 15-YEAR DELAY.
WHEN BALSA PASSED THROUGH THE CAVES FROM NEW YOGO, SHE CAME ACROSS A HYOHLU AND SPEARDANCED WITH IT. GINA FOUND A LUISHA, TOO.

YES, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
THE KING OF KANBAL AND HIS SPEARS HAVEN'T REALIZED IT, BUT THIS CEREMONY WILL CLEANSE US OF THAT DEVIOUS PLOT CREATED BY THE DESPICABLE KING ROGSAM.
I SEE...
SO THE HYOHLU WAITED FOR BALSA.
IS THERE ANYONE MORE WORTHY THAN HER TO CLEANSE THIS CEREMONY?
AND THERE IS NO MORE WORTHY A PERSON TO LAY TO REST THE CORRUPTED HYOHLU.
THAT PLOT TOOK OVER BALSA'S LIFE. SHE IS THE ONE MOST AFFECTED BY ALL OF THIS.

LET US PRAY
THAT BALSA WILL CLEANSE AND BURY THEM...
plop
FLUTTER
OPEN
rustle
rustle

WHOA!
IT'S FULL OF HAKUMA STONES!

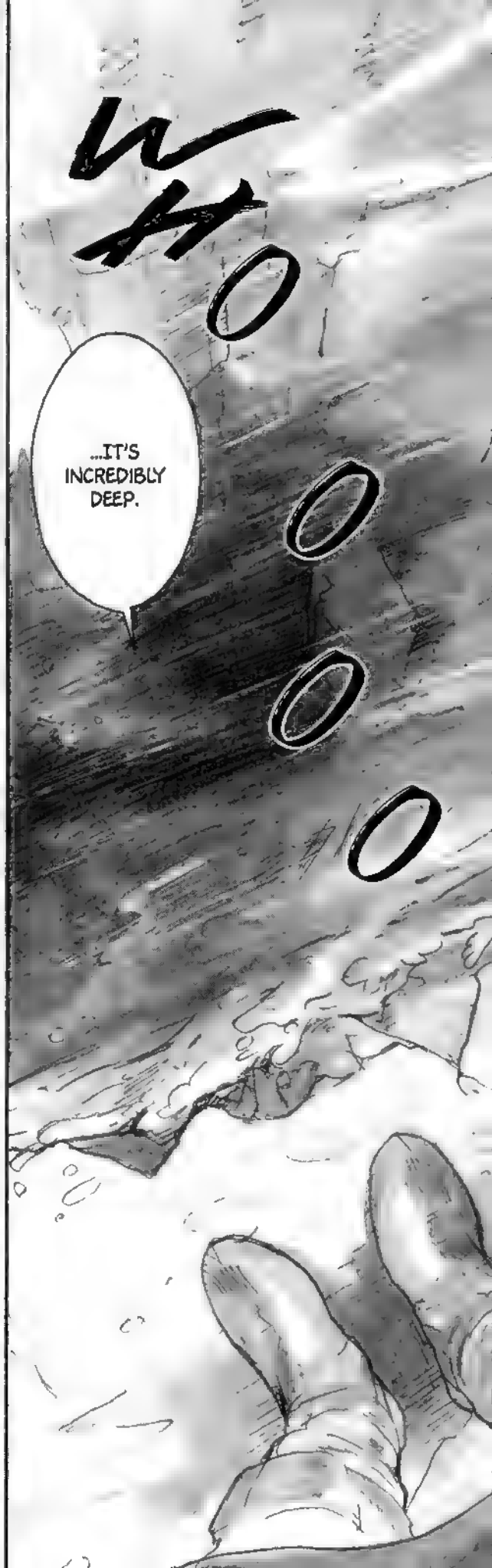
WHAT ARE THOSE HOLES?
THEY'RE WHERE THE TITI LAN LIVE.
KASSA, YOUR VOICE IS TOO LOUD.
shh
THEY'VE JUST GONE TO SLEEP.
Oh!
THE SOUND TRAVELS THROUGH THE STONE WALLS.
AND DON'T LET YOUR SPEAR TOUCH THE GROUND AS YOU WALK.
fwip

IF WE LOSE HIM, WE'LL GET LOST AND DIE HERE.
NO MATTER WHICH WAY I TURN, THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME.
...WHAT SIGNS IS HE USING TO KNOW WHERE TO GO?
STEP
BE CAREFUL HERE, THE BRANCHING PATH IS NARROW.
IT'S LYOKU-HAKU...
!?

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, YOYO?
YOU'RE NOT TELLING US TO SWIM, ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT.
TRY AND TOUCH THE WATER. IT'S COLD AS ICE.
IF YOU SWIM, YOU'LL BE DEAD IN AN INSTANT.

...JUST WAIT.


...IT'S INCREDIBLY DEEP.

BOTH OF YOU, TAKE OFF YOUR BOOTS AND SOCKS.
THEN TAKE OUT YOUR YUKKAL LEAVES.
CRUSH THEM WELL AND RUB THEM ON YOUR FEET.
FWIIII
YOYO, IS THIS RIGHT?
puff
AHHH!!
IT'S SO HOT!
HUH?
puff
puff
RUB
RUB
LOOK, HE'S HERE!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE THANK-FUL FOR THAT HEAT SOON.
Aka ha ha hai

swirl
...A SNAKE?
?
glint
SPLSH
fwsh

flip
Chomp
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
HE'LL LET US RIDE ON HIM TO YONSA TERRITORY.
THIS IS SOOTEE LAN, THE HUNTER OF WATER CURRENTS.

SOOTEE LAN.
YES, HE'S A CARNIVORE. HE LOVES GOAT MEAT.
WHEN A GOAT DIES FROM OLD AGE, WE ALWAYS GIVE IT TO A SOOTEE LAN.
IT EATS GOATS. SO IT'S A CARNIVORE?
THAT SOOTEE... WHATEVER YOU CALL IT.
gulp
HE ALREADY SAID HE'LL TAKE US THERE, SO HOP ON!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S FINE. WE'RE GREAT FRIENDS WITH THIS SOOTEE LAN.

...YEAH.
BUT I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED WALKING.
I GET IT...
IT'S A LOT FASTER TO TRAVEL BY WATER UNDER-GROUND.
HOLD YOUR SPEAR IN YOUR LEFT HAND, AND HOLD MY CLOTHES TIGHTLY WITH YOUR RIGHT.
GO AHEAD, KASSA. I'LL SIT BEHIND YOU.
JUST GRIP TIGHTLY WITH YOUR LEGS.
IT'S FINE. SOOTEE LAN WON'T DIVE, AND HE'S NOT GOING TO SHAKE US OFF.
HE'S NOT GOING TO DIVE, IS HE?
IS THIS REALLY ALRIGHT? YOU JUST SAID WE'D DIE IF WE FALL OFF.
YOU'RE SCARED TOO, BALSA?

FWIIII
LET'S GO!

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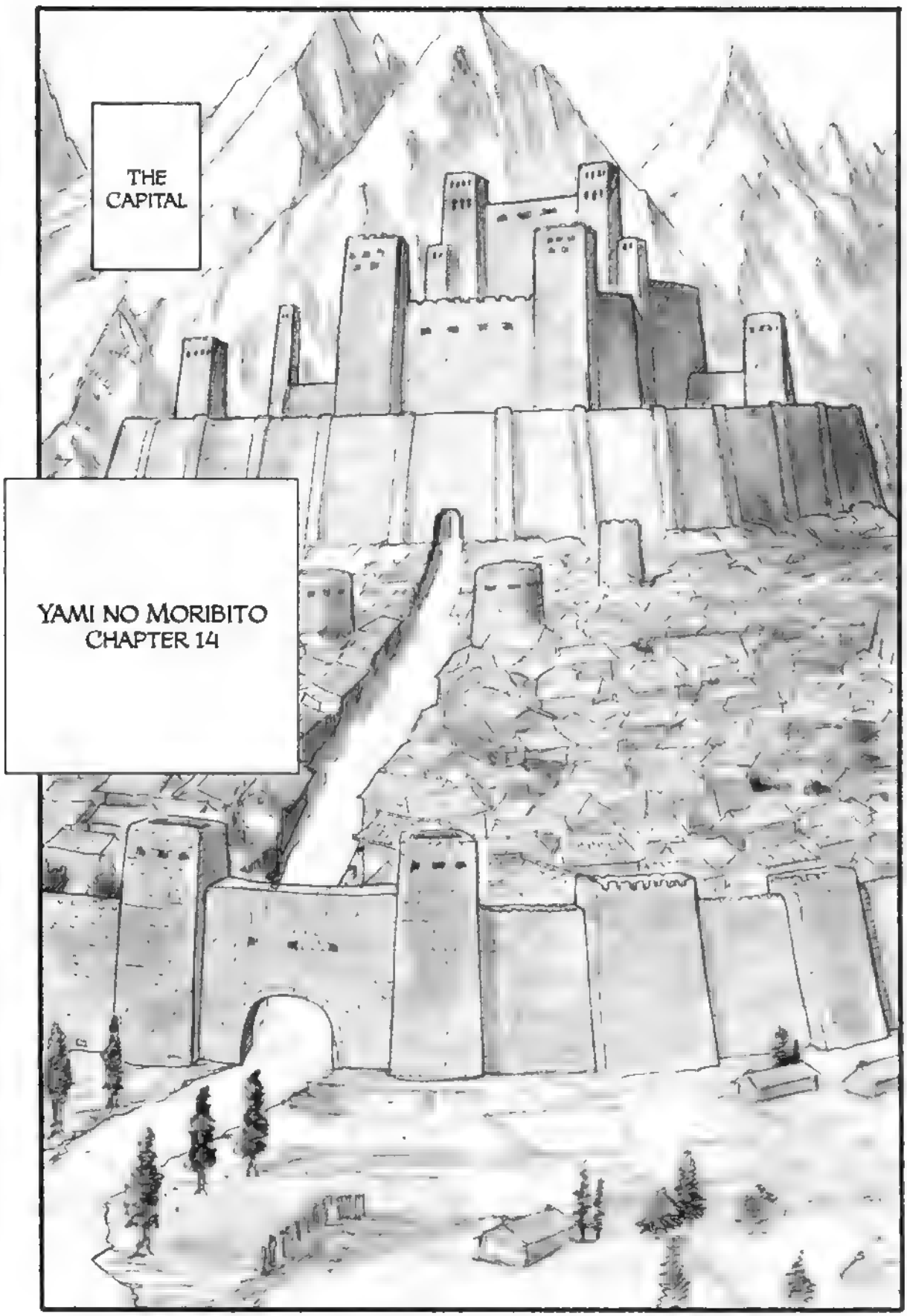
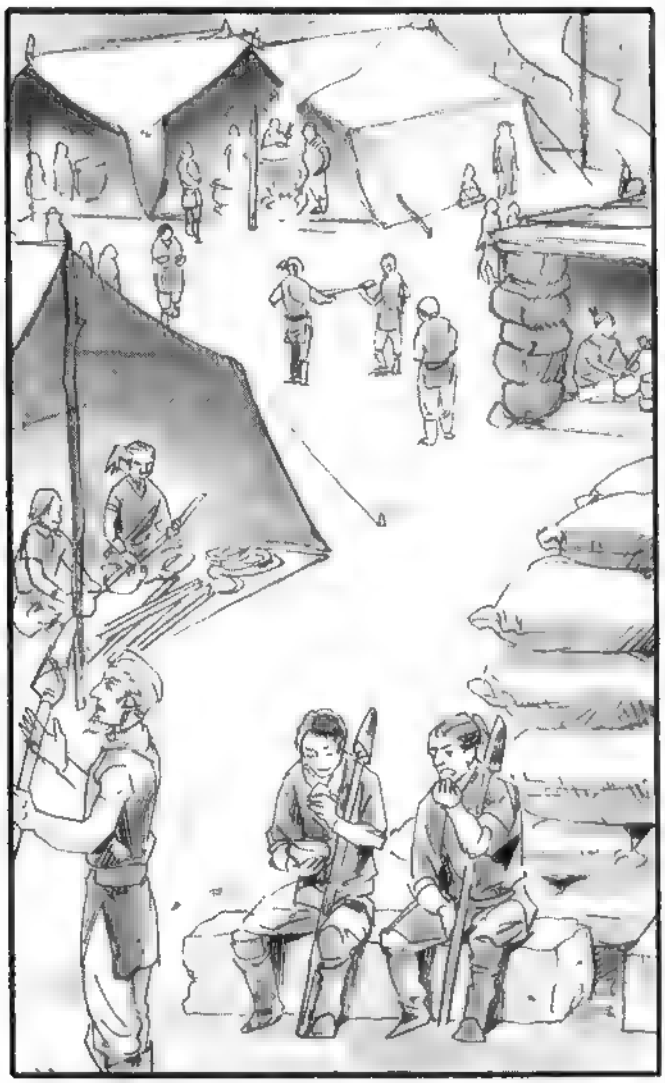
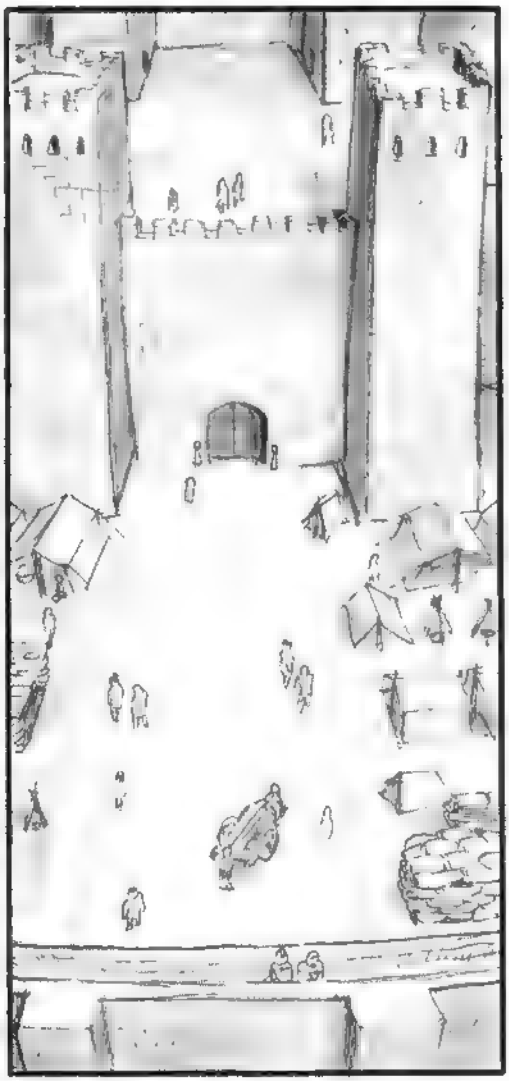
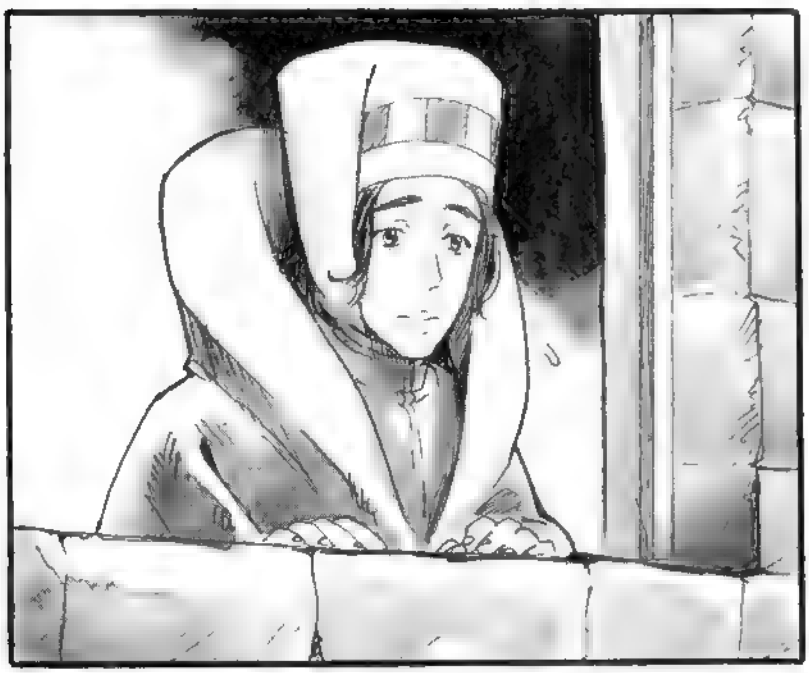
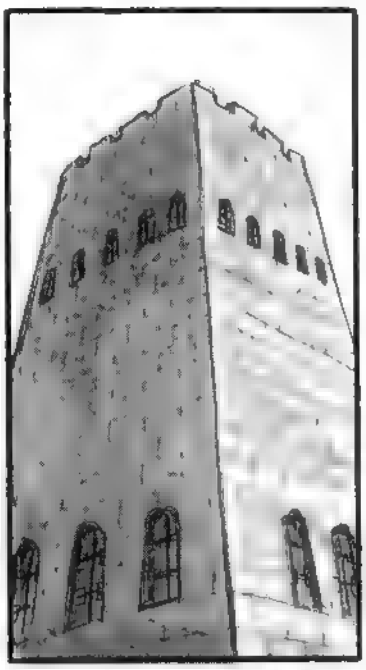

THE CAPITAL
YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 14









...THE PREPARATIONS ARE ALMOST DONE.

KING RADALLE.

IT'S A RELIEF TO SEE THAT THE TROOPS ARE LESS AGITATED THAN I EXPECTED.

YUGURO.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO HAVE THE PRIEST HOLD THE CEREMONY OF FORTITUDE, AND THEN WE CAN DEPART.

...WILL THIS REALLY WORK OUT?

.....

TWITCH
ONCE THE HYOHLU FINDS OUT THAT WE'RE HOSTILE TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN KING, THEY WILL SURELY ATTACK US...
Shiver
WON'T THEY READ OUR HEARTS IN THE DARKNESS OF THE CEREMONY AREA?
IT'LL BE FINE.
WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS COUNTLESS TIMES.
THE HYOHLU WILL ONLY APPEAR AND DARKNESS WILL ONLY COME ONCE I'VE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE DANCER.

JUST KEEP REPEATING THE HYMNS OF PRAISE TO THE MOUNTAIN KING IN YOUR HEAD.
THE SPEARDANCE BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE HYOHLU WILL END QUICKLY.
THE KINGS HAVE NEVER BEEN ANYTHING MORE THAN FIGURE-HEADS. HIM BEING SCARED DOESN'T AFFECT THE PLAN AT ALL.
AFTER THE DOOR OPENS, THE SOLDIERS WILL FLOOD IN AND PROTECT YOU.
THERE ISN'T THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE THAT YOU'LL BE IN DANGER.

BUT WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT?
BUT HOW CAN YOU MAKE SURE THE HYOHLU DOESN'T READ YOUR MIND WHEN YOU'RE SPEARDANCING? IT WORRIES ME...
AH... NO, IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN YOUR SKILLS.
HE TOLD ME TO REMEMBER IT WHEN I BECOME A SPEAR-DANCER...
BEFORE I FOUGHT HIM, HE GAVE ME HIS GOLD RING AND TAUGHT ME ABOUT BEING A SPEAR-DANCER.
WE'VE ALSO ALREADY TALKED ABOUT THIS... AS YOU KNOW, MY OLDER BROTHER JIGURO WAS ALSO CHOSEN AS A SPEARDANCER.

HE WANTS TO HEAR THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT.
THE KING IS SCARED.
THE SPEARDANCE IS ABOUT CLEARING YOUR MIND.
YOUR MIND SHOULD BE AS CLEAR AS WATER, ONE WITH YOUR BODY AS YOU DANCE..
KING RADALLE,
TAP TAP
THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE.

WHEN TELLING A LIE, IT'S BETTER TO LOOK STRAIGHT INTO THE OTHER PERSON'S EYES.
THE CLOSER TO THE TRUTH IT IS, THE MORE BELIEVABLE IT WILL BE.
IS THAT SO?
PEOPLE WANT TO BELIEVE.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
IF YOU TELL THEM WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR,
THEY'LL BELIEVE IT EASILY, NO MATTER HOW FAR-FETCHED THE LIE IS.

THE DANCE JIGURO TAUGHT ME REALLY WAS ALL ABOUT CLEARING YOUR MIND. THERE WAS NO TIME TO THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE.
THE ONLY THING THE HYOHLU WILL SEE IS WHETHER I CAN CLEAR MY HEAD
DURING THE DANCE.
DESPITE THAT, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A CEREMONY WHERE WE DIDN'T RECEIVE A LUISHA.
EVERYONE WHO HAS DANCED WITH THE HYOHLU HAS HAD AT LEAST A BIT OF FEAR AND HOSTILITY, AND THE DESIRE TO GET THE LUISHA.
...BESIDES, THERE IS NO ONE IN THIS WORLD WHO DOESN'T HARBOR EVIL THOUGHTS.
AS LONG AS I SUCCEED.
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY WEAK-HEARTED SOLDIERS THE HYOHLU KILL

OF COURSE, I WAS HORRIFIED WHEN THE ELDER LALOOG TOLD ME ABOUT THE HYOHLU'S TRUE FORM.
SO I MADE SURE THAT THE OTHER KING'S SPEARS DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT.
IF THEY FIND OUT WHAT THE HYOHLU REALLY ARE,
I'M SURE THERE WOULD BE SOME WHO'D HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART.
I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART,
NOT FOR ANYONE.
I'LL DECEIVE YOU AGAIN, JUST LIKE I DECEIVED YOU BEFORE.
YES, I'LL BURY YOU ALL.
WHEN THE DOOR OPENS BEFORE ME, I HOPE YOU ALL DISAPPEAR IN THE DARKNESS.
haa

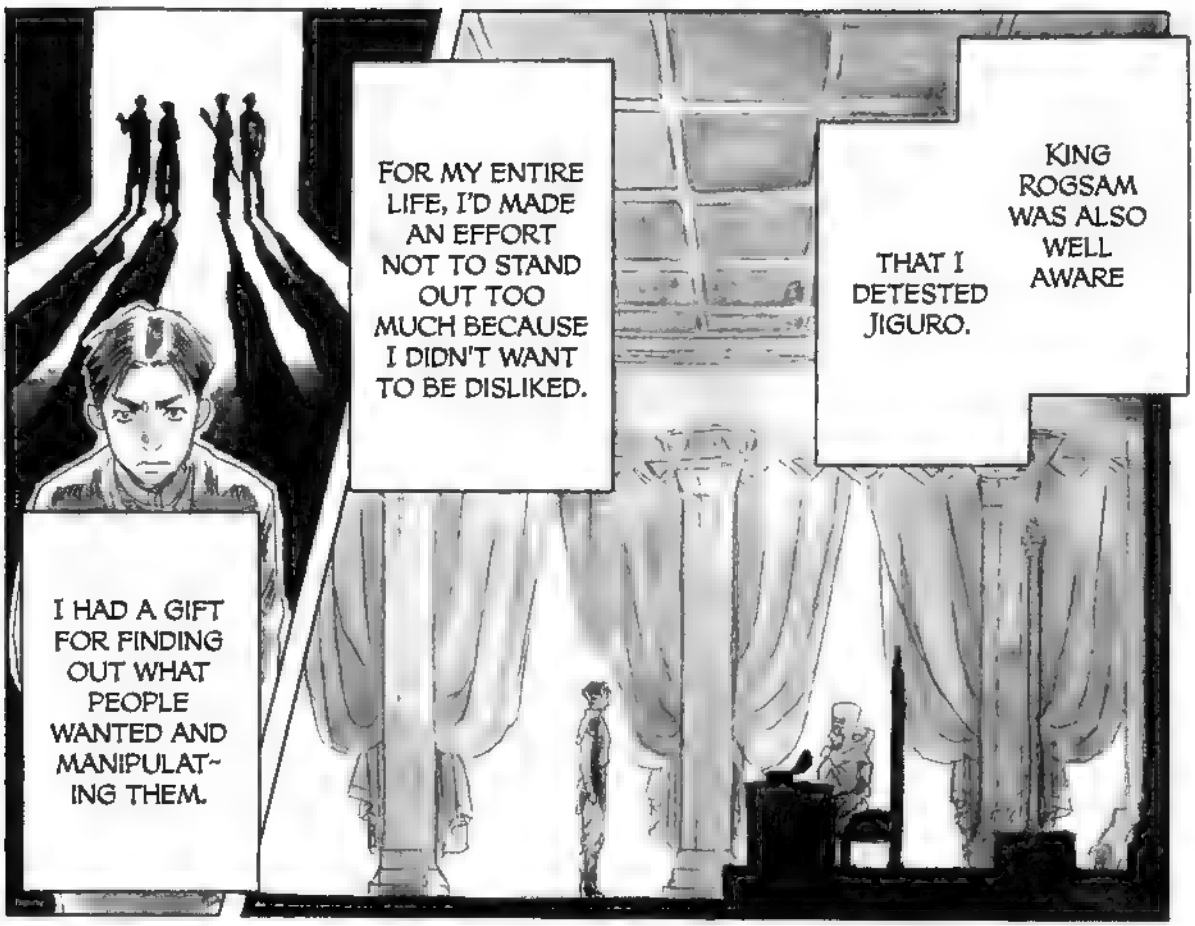
GULP
SO PLEASE, DON'T SHOW SUCH COWARDICE TO ANYONE ELSE
UNTIL THE CEREMONY IS OVER.
...YOUR FATHER ORDERED ME TO PROTECT YOU.
MIND-READING HYOHLU DON'T JUST EXIST IN THE MOUNTAIN DEEP.
THE WORLD IS FULL OF ENEMIES WHO CAN READ MINDS.
THE MOMENT YOU SHOW THEM COWARDICE, THEY WILL RIP YOUR THROAT OUT.

KING ROGSAM KNEW THAT WELL.
EVERYONE FEELS FEAR AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES.
IF YOU BECOME FRIGHTENED, JUST LOOK AT ME.
I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE.
Smile
I AM YOUR SPEAR.

KING ROGSAM HAD A ROTTEN HEART, BUT HE WAS SMART.
HE KNEW HIS SON WELL.
I'VE BEEN PROTECTING THIS SICKLY KING SINCE HE ASCENDED THE THRONE AT AGE FIFTEEN.
HE'S REMAINED A LITTLE BABY, JUST LIKE I EXPECTED.
KING ROGSAM WAS IN HIS THIRTIES WHEN HIS ELDEST SON, RADALLE, WAS BORN. HE LOVED HIM DEARLY.
KING ROGSAM FEARED THAT HIS DEAR RADALLE WOULD BE DETHRONED BY HIS BROTHERS.
HE CALLED UPON ME TO PROTECT HIS SON'S REIGN...

I CAN STILL VIVIDLY REMEMBER THE DAY HE CALLED ON ME.
I'VE BEEN WAITING, YUGURO.

CHOOSE.
DO YOU WANT TO BE A HERO,
OR DO YOU WANT TO DIE AS A TRAITOR?
...? THOSE ARE...
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE TOLD ME HOW HE EXECUTED HIS PLOT TO ASCEND THE THRONE BY KILLING HIS BROTHER, AND HOW HE FRAMED JIGURO.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE TOLD ME, I KNEW I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
I HAD NOTHING THAT COULD PROVE JIGURO'S INNOCENCE.
I CAN THINK UP AS MANY CRIMES TO LABEL YOU A TRAITOR AS THERE ARE STARS IN THE SKY.


I HAD A GIFT FOR FINDING OUT WHAT PEOPLE WANTED AND MANIPULAT-ING THEM.
FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE, I'D MADE AN EFFORT NOT TO STAND OUT TOO MUCH BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE DISLIKED.
KING ROGSAM WAS ALSO WELL AWARE
THAT I DETESTED JIGURO.

I'D ALWAYS LIVED IN JIGURO'S SHADOW, BUT IN THAT MOMENT I COULD STEP ON TOP OF HIM TO BASK IN THE LIGHT.
I FELT NO HESITATION AT ALL ABOUT BETRAYING MY BROTHER OR LYING TO BECOME A HERO.

THAT I HAD FAR MORE AMBITION THAN HE EVER IMAGINED.

I WOULD BE A HERO AND CONTINUE PROTECTING THE KING AS A HERO.

SURELY THERE COULD BE NO BETTER OUTCOME THAN THAT.

BUT THERE WAS ONE THING ROGSAM FAILED TO SEE.

JIGURO KILLED EVERY LAST ONE OF THE SPEARMEN WHO'D ATTENDED A LUISHA GIVING CEREMONY
AND THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT AGE TO ATTEND THE NEXT ONE.
I REALIZED SOMETHING WHILE JIGURO WAS TEACHING ME THE SPEARDANCE.
WHOOOOSH
RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES,
THE THINGS I COULD CHANGE WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS VASTLY EXPANDED.

Oh.
YUGURO?
BY THAT TIME, THE ELDERS WHO ARE SET IN THEIR WAYS AND FEAR THE MOUNTAIN KING WOULD BE TOO OLD TO INTERFERE.
I COULD GATHER ENOUGH MEN TO DEFEAT THE MOUNTAIN KING.
IF I COULD BUILD UP MY INFLUENCE AND TRUST WITH THE OTHER SPEARMEN,
IF I CAN TAKE THE LUISHA AS I PLEASE,
AND TURN THE DREAMS OF THE PEOPLE OF KANBAL INTO REALITY,

I WILL BE A REAL HERO.
MY NAME WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED IN KANBAL.
PLEASE CHEER UP.
MY KING,
Smile
CLENCH

WHEN TOMORROW DAWNS
WE WILL CREATE A NEW HISTORY FOR KANBAL.

Yami no Moribito

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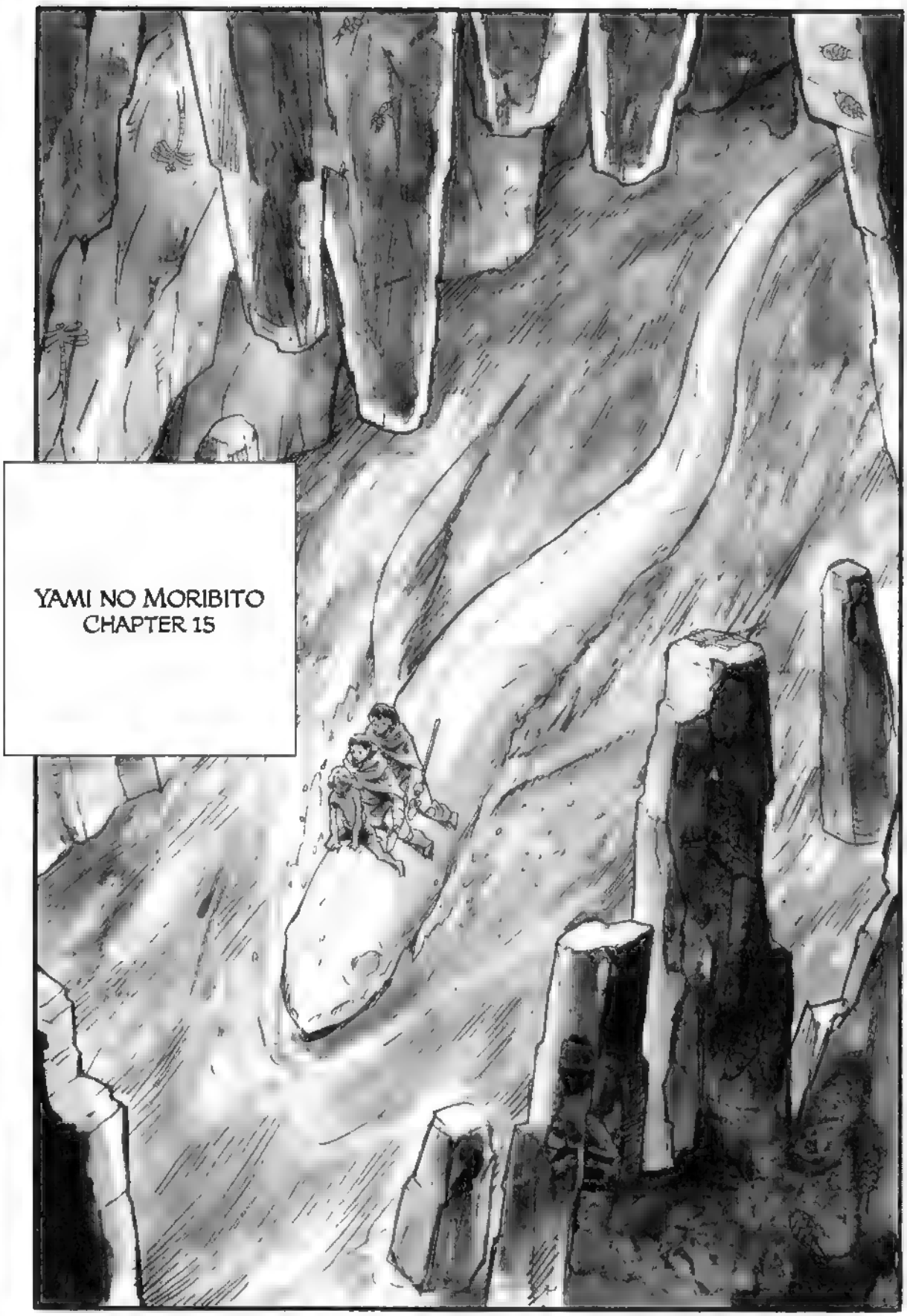

YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 15

Hey!
NONO!
I FEEL HELPLESS WITHOUT YOYO...
IT'S ONLY BEEN A DAY.
NO WAY.
A YONSA SHEPHERD WILL GUIDE YOU FROM HERE.
I'M NONO FROM THE YONSA CLAN. NICE TO MEET YOU.
BYE KASSA, BALSA!
GOOD LUCK!

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
SMILE
.....
?
stare
NO...
I GUESS THAT'S EXPECTED.
A LOT OF TIME HAS PASSED.
YOU WERE ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD.

I LET YOU GIVE IT A TRY. SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH, YOU WERE PRETTY GOOD AT IT.
Whee! Whee!
WHEN I LET YOU SEE THE GOATS, YOU INSISTED ON RIDING ONE.
I GAVE IN.
...I WAS SURPRISED WHEN WE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM ELDER TOTO.
YEAH. SO IT HIT ME HARD WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU'D DIED.
HUH...
DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN?
I VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS TASK.
ONCE I KNEW YOU WERE ALIVE, I HAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

FEELS STRANGE.
WHO REMEMBER ME AS KARUNA'S DAUGHTER.
THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE...
WHOOSH...
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SINCE THEN?
I GREW UP CONSTANTLY ON THE RUN WITH JIGURO...

MY LIFE WITH JIGURO WAS A DAY-TO-DAY ORDEAL.
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
IT WAS A HARSH JOURNEY. WE RAN FROM OUR PURSUERS, AND JIGURO KILLED HIS FRIENDS ONE BY ONE JUST TO SURVIVE.
WHEN I WAS TENDING TO JIGURO, I TOLD HIM I WOULD SAVE THE LIVES OF EIGHT PEOPLE TO ATONE FOR THE FRIENDS HE HAD KILLED.

I BECAME THE BODYGUARD OF PRINCE CHAGUM OF NEW YOGO.
CHAGUM'S LIFE WAS IN DANGER BECAUSE THERE WAS AN EGG INSIDE HIM THAT NEEDED TO BE RELEASED IN NAYUG.
WE FOUGHT THE LA LUNGA WITH EVERYTHING WE HAD.

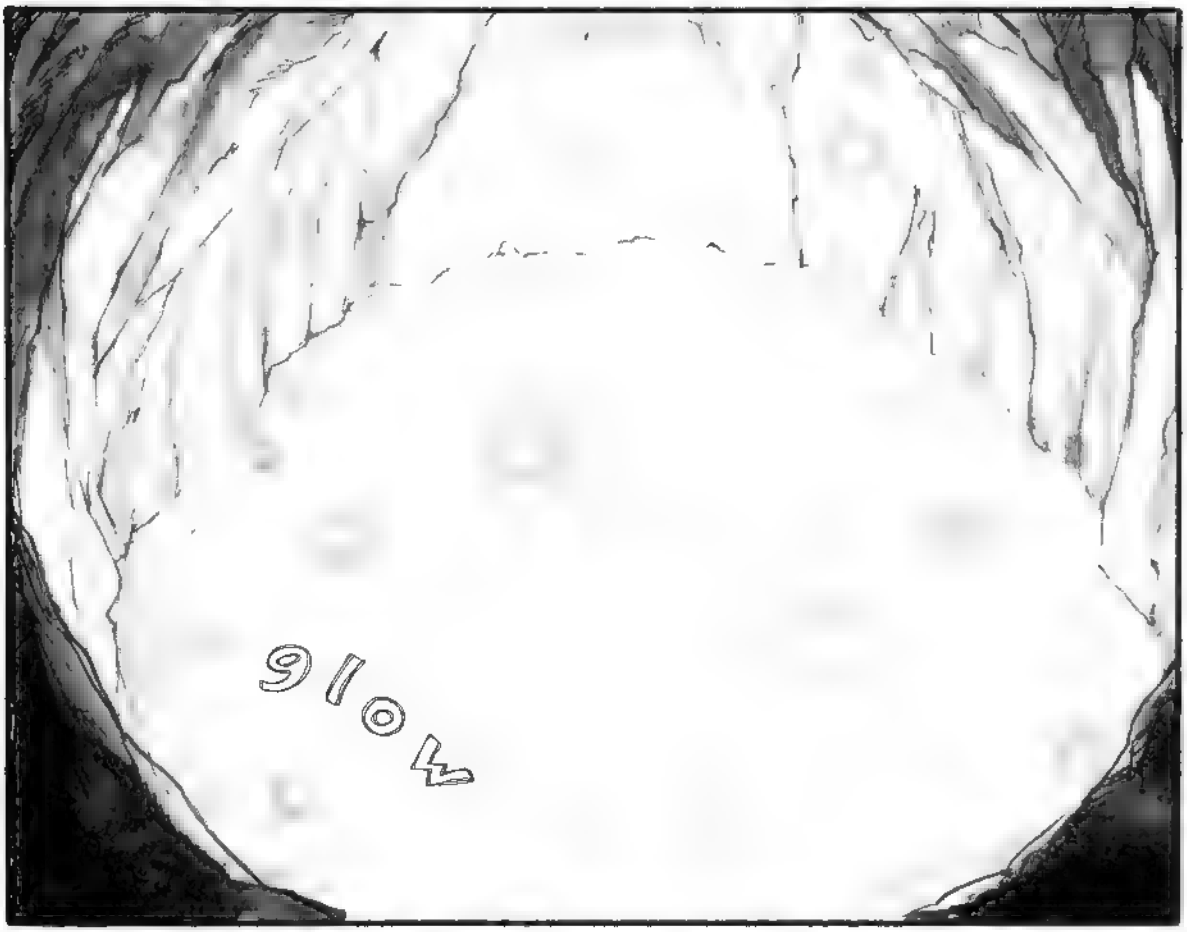
NOYUK?
OH, NAYUG?
ANOTHER WORLD LOCATED RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS ONE, BUT NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T SEE IT.
HMMM... THAT SOUNDS LIKE NOYUK.
YES. WE CALL IT NOYUK.

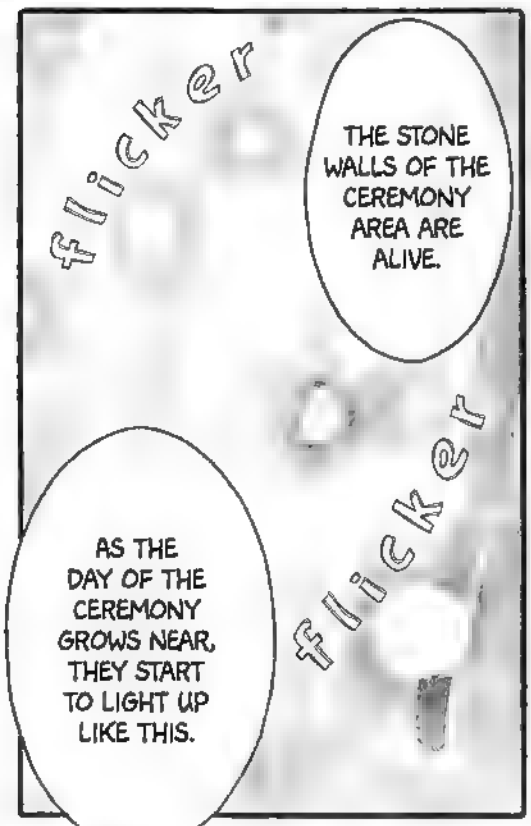
THE PALACE OF THE MOUNTAIN KING IS IN NOYUK, BEYOND THE SIGHT OF NORMAL PEOPLE.
...IF YOU LOOK BEYOND THE DOOR IN THE MOUNTAIN DEEP, YOU WILL SEE NOYUK.
WHAT'S WRONG?
Hmmm...
BUT RECENTLY I'VE BEEN PULLED INTO WORLDS THAT ONLY SHAMANS CAN SEE.
I'D ALWAYS SERVED AS A BODYGUARD FOR RICH MERCHANTS THAT FIGHT AMONGST EACH OTHER.
NOTHING. IT'S JUST THAT UNTIL LATELY,

TANDA WOULD HAVE LOVED TO BE ON A JOURNEY LIKE THIS.
THAT MAN LIVES TO UNDERSTAND THE CURIOSITIES OF THIS WORLD.
WILL I EVER SIT BY THE FIRE AND EAT VEGETABLE STEW WITH TANDA AGAIN?

HE'LL SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE NEVER KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.
HE'LL JUST KEEP WAITING THERE IN IGNORANCE.
IF... I DIE DOWN HERE...
SHAMANS CAN SEE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.
BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
IF I DIE, I'LL COME BACK AND VISIT YOU AS A SPIRIT.
HEY, TANDA

WHOOSH
NIGHT FOUR
WE'RE HERE.
THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO. THEY'LL TAKE YOU FROM HERE.
THAT'S THE PASSAGE THAT LEADS TO THE CEREMONY AREA.
GO AND SEE.
...THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE.
GULP


glow


flicker
THE STONE WALLS OF THE CEREMONY AREA ARE ALIVE.
flicker
AS THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY GROWS NEAR, THEY START TO LIGHT UP LIKE THIS.

TOMORROW AT DAWN, THE KING, THE KING'S SPEARS, AND THEIR ATTENDANTS WILL DESCEND HERE FROM THE SURFACE.

WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?

YOU WERE JIGURO'S ADOPTED CHILD, WEREN'T YOU?
YES.
THE KING'S SPEARS WILL COMPETE IN THIS LIGHT.
THE CHOSEN SPEARMAN WILL CALL THE HYOHLU, AND THE LIGHT WILL DISAPPEAR TO MAKE WAY FOR TOTAL DARKNESS.
THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, I WATCHED JIGURO FIGHT FROM THIS PASSAGE.
HE WAS EXCEP-TIONAL.
nod
LISTEN, YOU WILL ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE TO SHOW IT TO THEM.
hmm.
DO YOU HAVE LALOOG YONSA'S LETTER?

IF YOU SHOW THE LETTER BEFORE THE COMPETITION,
THE KING WILL THINK YOU'RE STANDING IN HIS WAY AND HAVE HIS SPEARS ATTACK YOU.
HOWEVER, IF YOU WAIT UNTIL AFTER THEY CALL THE HYOHLU, IT WILL BE PITCH BLACK AND THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO READ THE LETTER.
SO YOUR ONE CHANCE IS THE SHORT INTERVAL RIGHT AFTER THE SPEARDANCER IS SELECTED BUT BEFORE HE CALLS THE HYOHLU.
ONCE THE SPEARDANCER HAS BEEN DECIDED, ALL THE OTHERS WILL PLACE THEIR SPEARS ON THE GROUND. THAT'S YOUR CHANCE.

clap
clap
OKAY. LET'S SLEEP HERE TONIGHT.
CLENCH
THE TIME HAS COME...
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SLEEP, BUT JUST LYING DOWN AND CLOSING YOUR EYES WILL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.
I'LL WAKE YOU ONCE THE KING AND HIS MEN ENTER.

CAN I REALLY FACE THE KING TOMORROW?
rub
rub
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I CAN'T SLEEP.
slip
pat
sleepy
haa...

FWIIIIIIII
kshhhh
kshhhh
kshhhh
kshhhh
...THE MOUNTAIN KING'S FLUTE.

UNCLE...
glance
THIS IS WHEN THE PRIEST BESTOWS THE POWER OF YORAM, THE THUNDER GOD, ON THE KING AND THE KING'S SPEARS...
DO YOU WANT YOUR MEN TO DIE?!
YOU FOOL! ATTACK THE MOUNTAIN DEEP?!
BAM
EVEN THEY CANNOT DENY MY UNCLE'S MIGHT.
THE KING'S FAMILY WAS AGAINST IT, BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER TO STOP HIM.

COME HERE, EVERY-ONE.
Clink
nod
smile

YOU CANNOT FORGET
TO CHANT HYMNS TO THE MOUNTAIN KING ONCE DARKNESS FALLS IN THE CEREMONY AREA.
Yes, sir!
MAKE SURE IT COMES FROM THE HEART.
THE TIME HAS COME.
WE ARE THE KING'S SPEARS. WE ARE THE BEST SPEARMEN IN KANBAL.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO USE OUR STRENGTH AND MAKE OUR POOR COUNTRY PROSPER.
Haa

glance
KAHM WAS WORRIED THAT I WOULD REPLACE HIM WITH MY SON SHISHEEM.
WHAT A FOOL.
DID HE THINK I WOULD EXPOSE MY OWN SON TO THAT KIND OF RISK?
HE'S TOO HONEST AND STRAIGHT-LACED, JUST LIKE JIGURO.
Heh
LET'S GO!

SHING
FWSH
YEAH!
YORAM, GOD OF THUNDER, PROTECT US WITH YOUR LIGHT!
LET OUR SPEARS BE LIGHTNING!

Yami no Moribito

"Guardian of the Darkness"

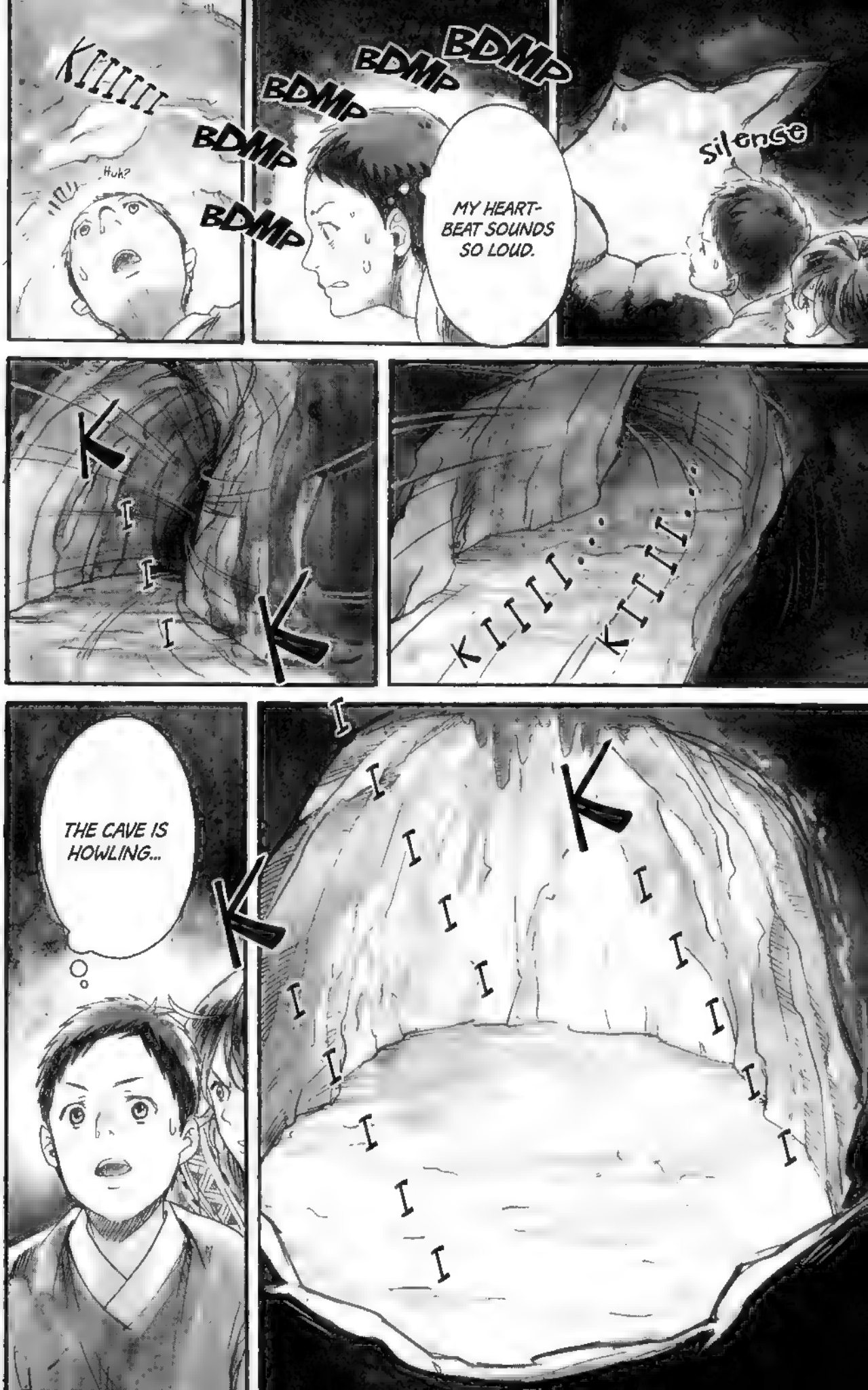
By Uehashi Nahoko

Illustrated by Yuu

Scanlation:
Lovely Strange Dark
lsd.mangadex.com

Chapter Sixteen

Raws: Kalendel
Translation: Den
Editing: Samara &
Nutritious Milk
QC: Ianu


KIIIIII
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
Huh?
MY HEART-BEAT SOUNDS SO LOUD.
Silence
K
I
I
I
K
KIIII.
KIIII.
THE CAVE IS HOWLING...
K
I
I
I

YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 16

I CAN'T AFFORD TO FAIL.
CAN I REALLY PULL THIS OFF...?
KRSH
KRSH KRSH

KRSH
KRSH
KRSH
THEY'RE HERE...
KRSH
KRSH
KRSH
KRSH
KRSH
KRSH
NOD
STOP

MOUNTAIN KING!!
THE KING FROM THE LAND UNDER THE SUN HAS COME!
I AM ACCOMPANIED BY MY SPEARS!
WE ARE HERE TO SHOW YOU THE FLASH OF OUR SPEARS AND THE TRUTH OF OUR HEARTS!!

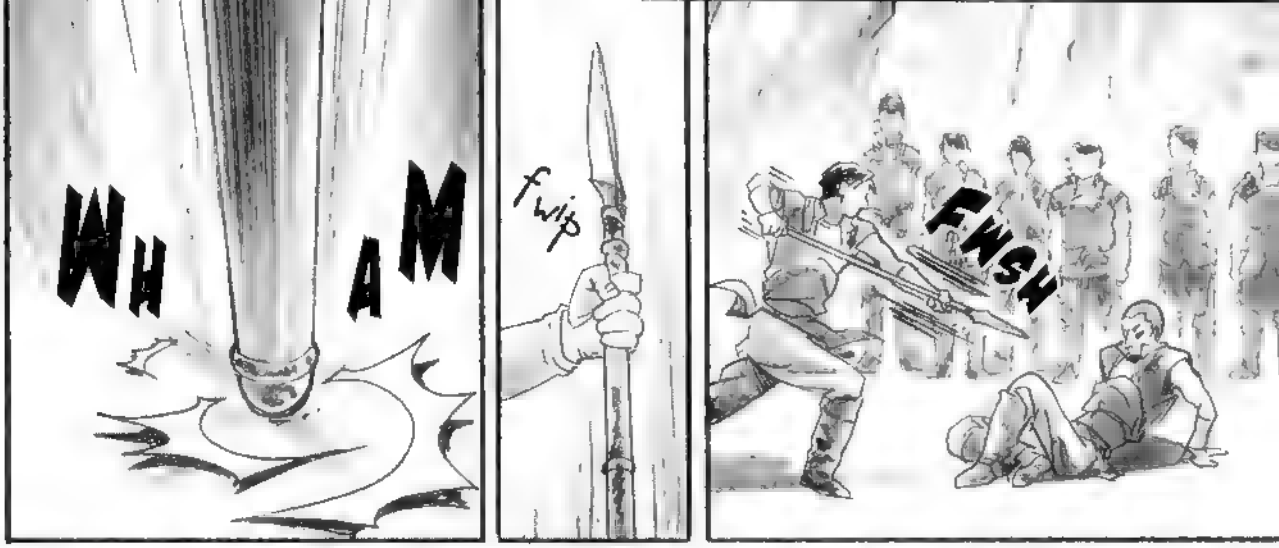
THE COMPE-TITION WILL BEGIN...
SOON
Ha!
NEXT!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
Hyaa!

NEXT FIGHTER, FORWARD!
KAHM..
NEXT!
CLANG
WHAP
AH!
Hyaa!
haa!
CLANG
fwsh
swsh
UGH!
THUD

WAS AN IMPRESSIVE FEAT.
WATCHING THIS MAKES IT ALL THE MORE EVIDENT THAT JIGURO WINNING THIS COMPETITION AT 16
tap
tap
CLANG
CLANG
NEXT!
NEXT!
thnk
IT'S YUGURO...
AH, FINALLY...

FWSH
fwsh
tap
SWIPE
fwsh
EACH SPEAR-MAN'S TECH-NIQUE DIFFERS DEPEND-ING ON THE CLAN THEY'RE FROM...
thunk
CLANK

I CAN SEE JIGURO
IN THE WAY YUGURO MOVES.
NOT YET.
NEXT!
NEXT!
WHAM
WHAM
NOT YET.


WH
AM
twip
FWSH

MY NAME IS YUGURO MUSA!
...I AM THE MOST SKILLED SPEARMAN!

THE DANCER HAS BEEN DECIDED!
I KNEW YUGURO WAS EXCEL-LENT!

turn

THUD
tap
krsh
fwsh
What the?
I AM KASSA, SON OF TONNO FROM THE MUSA CLAN!
I'M HERE TO DELIVER AN URGENT LETTER TO THE KING FROM THE CHIEF OF THE YONSA CLAN, LALOOG.
... KASSA?!

SHOCK

WAIT!!
WHAT TRAP IS THIS?
ARE YOU SOME UNDERGROUND MONSTER?
FWSH

HUH?!
N-NO! UNCLE YUGURO!!
LALOOG WAS AT THE LAST CEREMONY.
HE ENTRUSTED ME WITH A LETTER TO SAVE YOUR LIVES.

YOUR MAJESTY!
KING'S SPEARS! ATTENDANTS!
YOU HAVE ALL BEEN DECEIVED!

twitch
grip

PLEASE, YOUR MAJESTY, READ THIS LETTER!
IF YOU DON'T STOP THIS, IT WILL BE THE END OF KANBAL!

grab
fwsh
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HOW DARE YOU!

KAHM? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET ME GO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, UNCLE?!
WERE YOU PLANNING TO IMPALE KASSA WITH YOUR SPEAR?!
YOU FOOL! YOU'RE BEING TRICKED!
chatter chatter
THAT ISN'T KASSA!
IT'S A MONSTER!
IT'S TESTING US!

LALOOG IS THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE SECRETS OF THIS CAVE.
HE MAY BE TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW
BEFORE THIS CEREMONY ENDS.
AND WHAT IF IT ISN'T?!
WHAT IF HE REALLY HAS A LETTER FROM LALOOG?
chatter...
...

YOUR MAJESTY!
PLEASE READ THIS LETTER AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHICH OF US IS RIGHT.
STRAIN
YOUR MAJESTY, DON'T BE FOOLED! THIS IS A TRAP TO WEAKEN OUR RESOLVE!

PLEASE BELIEVE ME!
THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
YOUR MAJESTY, IF YOU DON'T READ THIS LETTER, YOU WILL DIE HERE.

I'VE PROTECTED YOU ALL THIS TIME.
BELIEVE ME.
Uh...
YOUR MAJESTY!
REMEMBER OUR GOAL!

NO!
YOUR MAJESTY!
IF YOU DON'T READ THIS LETTER, THE HYOHLU WILL KILL YOU!
AND NOT JUST YOU! EVERYONE HERE WILL DIE...
YOUR MAJESTY! DON'T LET EVERYONE DIE!
DON'T DESTROY KANBAL!
SOMEONE GRAB HIM!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHY WE'RE ALL HERE?!
HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN OUR GOAL?!
HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN?!
Oh...
THIS IS BAD...
STEP STEP
CLINK
CLANG

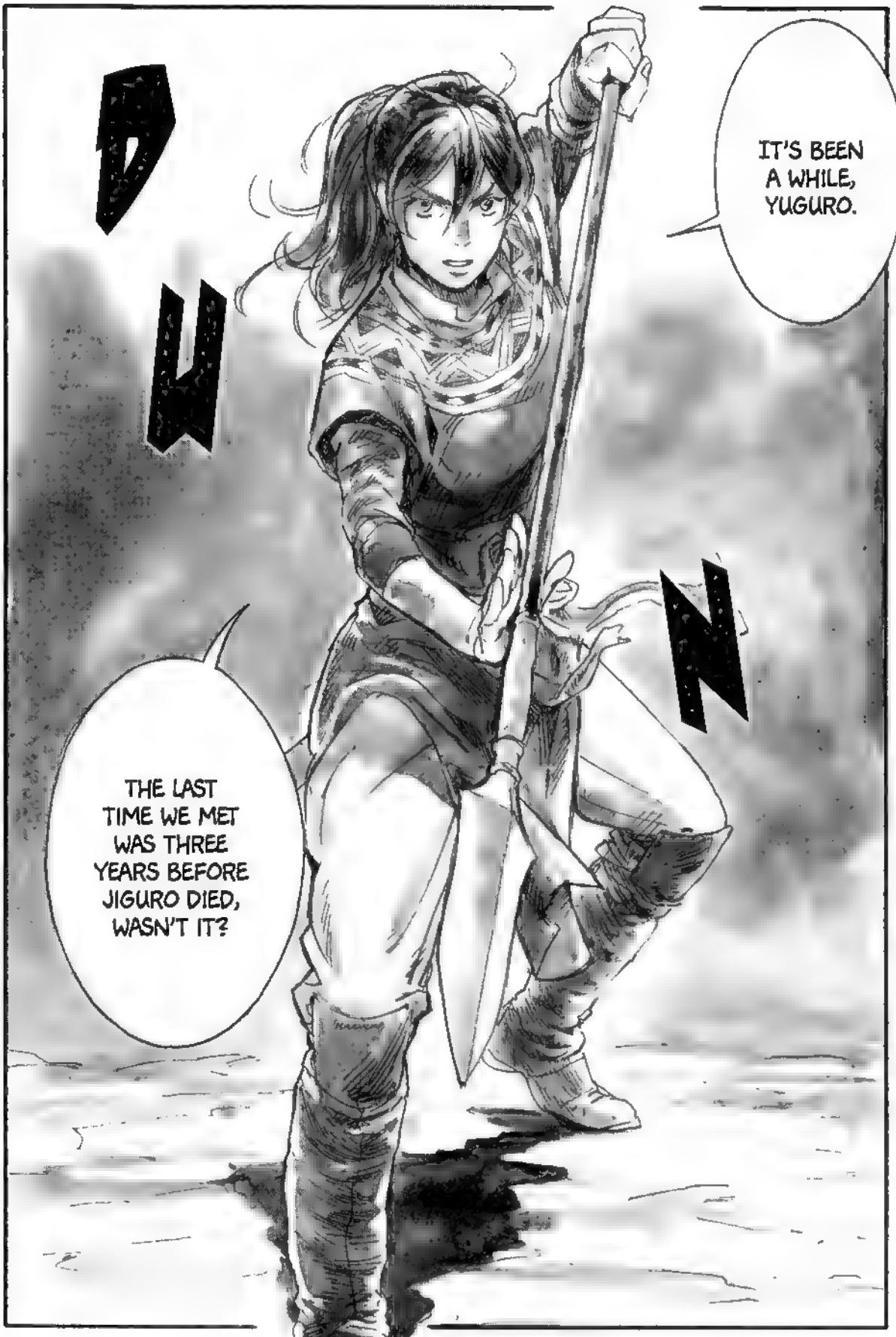
turn
KRSH
DASH
TENSE
flap
I AM LALOOG, PARTICIPANT IN THE LAST CEREMONY IN THE MOUNTAIN DEEP.
I WILL TELL YOU THE SECRET OF THE MOUNTAIN DEEP!
I PRAY THAT MY MESSAGE REACHES YOU BEFORE THE SPEARDANCER CALLS FORTH THE HYOHLU.

THE HYOHLU ARE NOT SERVANTS OF THE MOUNTAIN KING.
THEY ARE THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED FROM THIS WORLD, WHO...
SLIP
UGH!
WHAM
OM

ビュオオ
FWOOSH

WHACK

YOU...
TURN
clatter


IT'S BEEN A WHILE, YUGURO.
THE LAST TIME WE MET WAS THREE YEARS BEFORE JIGURO DIED, WASN'T IT?

I HEARD THAT YOU CLAIMED YOU KILLED JIGURO.
...YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME. JIGURO DIED FROM AN ILLNESS.
I WAS THE ONE WHO TENDED HIS SICKBED.
chatter
chatter
What?
Huh?
BALSA...

YOUR FATHER HAD MY FATHER KILLED AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE A ROBBERY.
I WAS ABOUT TO BE KILLED AS WELL, BUT JIGURO SAVED ME AND RAISED ME HIMSELF.
YOUR MAJESTY, MY NAME IS BALSA, DAUGHTER OF KARUNA YONSA, WHO WAS KING NAGURU'S DOCTOR.
chatter
WHY IS A WOMAN HERE?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
JIGURO MUSA?
.....
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD DECEIVE US WITH THIS?
...YOU FOOL.

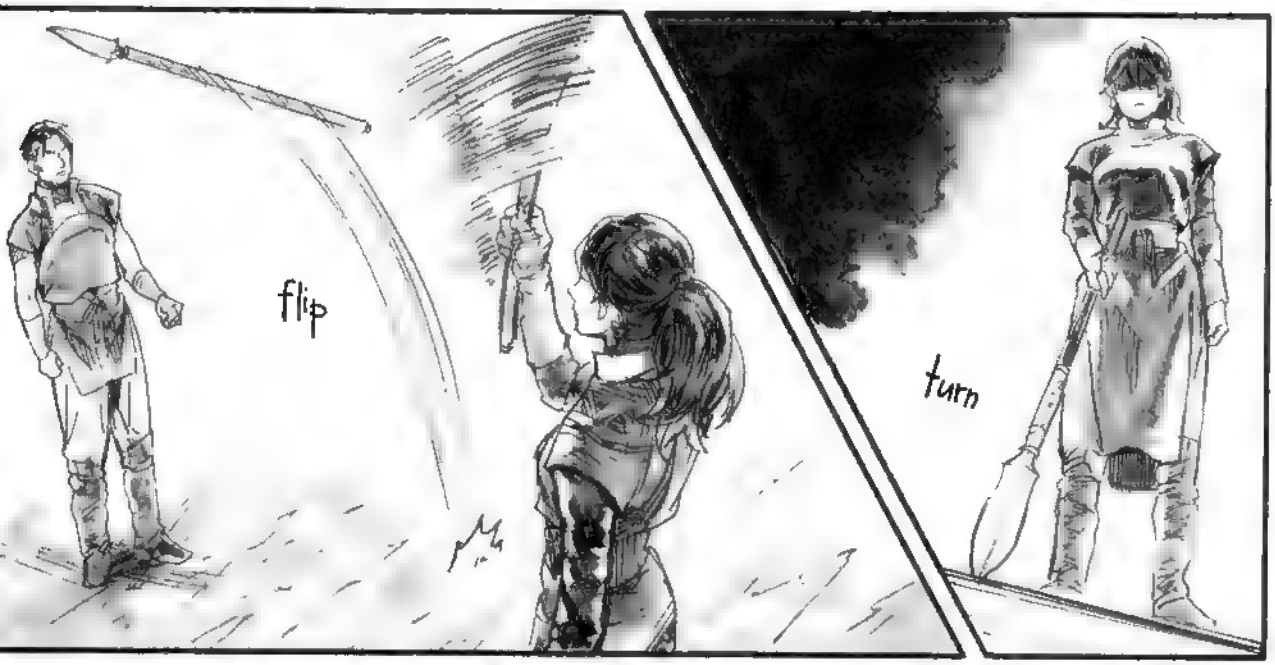
LISTEN, SERVANT OF THE MOUNTAIN KING.
I AM THE RIGHTFUL SPEAR-DANCER. NO ONE HERE IS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BE SWAYED BY YOUR TESTS, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY.
FIRST KASSA, AND NOW JIGURO'S ADOPTED CHILD.
THE MOUNTAIN KING REALLY LIKES TO CONJURE ILLUSIONS TO TEST US ALL.
YOU BELIEVE IN ME,
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT? WE ARE THE KING'S SPEARS.
THE BEST SPEARMEN IN KANBAL.

WELL THEN, MONSTER OF THE MOUNTAIN DEEP,
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, THEN DO IT.
IF THAT IS WHAT YOUR KING TRULY WISHES.
turn
I BELIEVE IN ALL OF YOU.
chatter
THIS MAN...

HE'S THE MONSTER.
HE...
THREW AWAY EVERY-THING IMPORTANT TO HIM
TO BETRAY JIGURO...
TO BETRAY HIS OWN BROTHER AND PLAY THE HERO. HE HAS ABSOLUTE-LY NO SHAME.

JIGURO...
NOW I CAN BE AT PEACE.
I GAVE MY GOLD RING TO YUGURO.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THE FIRST TIME I PLUNGED MY SPEAR INTO SOMEONE JUST SO WE COULD EARN MONEY TO SURVIVE ANOTHER DAY.
I WITNESSED HIM SLUMP OVER AS HE GRIEVED FOR THE FRIENDS HE KILLED.
BOTH OF US SLEPT HUNGRY IN THE MUD.

TO BUILD UP HIS OWN INFLUENCE.
YUGURO USED THE BLOOD-DRENCHED PAIN OF MY LIFE


flip
turn

BUT ONLY THE BEST SPEARWIELDER IS CHOSEN AS THE SPEARDANCER, RIGHT?
I DON'T MIND YOU TELLING THEM I'M A MONSTER. I'LL PLAY ALONG.
FINE.
IT LOOKS LIKE NOTHING WILL BE GAINED FROM TALKING.
catch

I WONDER HOW GOOD JIGURO'S SPEAR IS?
fwsh
STOP
LET'S FIND OUT.
SCRAPE

SHOCK
I, BALSA FROM THE YONSA CLAN, RAISED BY JIGURO, CHALLENGE YOU TO A FIGHT!
YUGURO OF THE MUSA CLAN!
HYOHLU! BEAR WITNESS!
SEE WHO THE REAL SPEAR-DANCER IS!

DOES IT SEEM LIKE...
THERE ARE SUDDENLY MORE SHADOWS HERE?
HEY.
HUH?
blank
IT SUDDENLY GOT DARK.
?

Yami no Moribito

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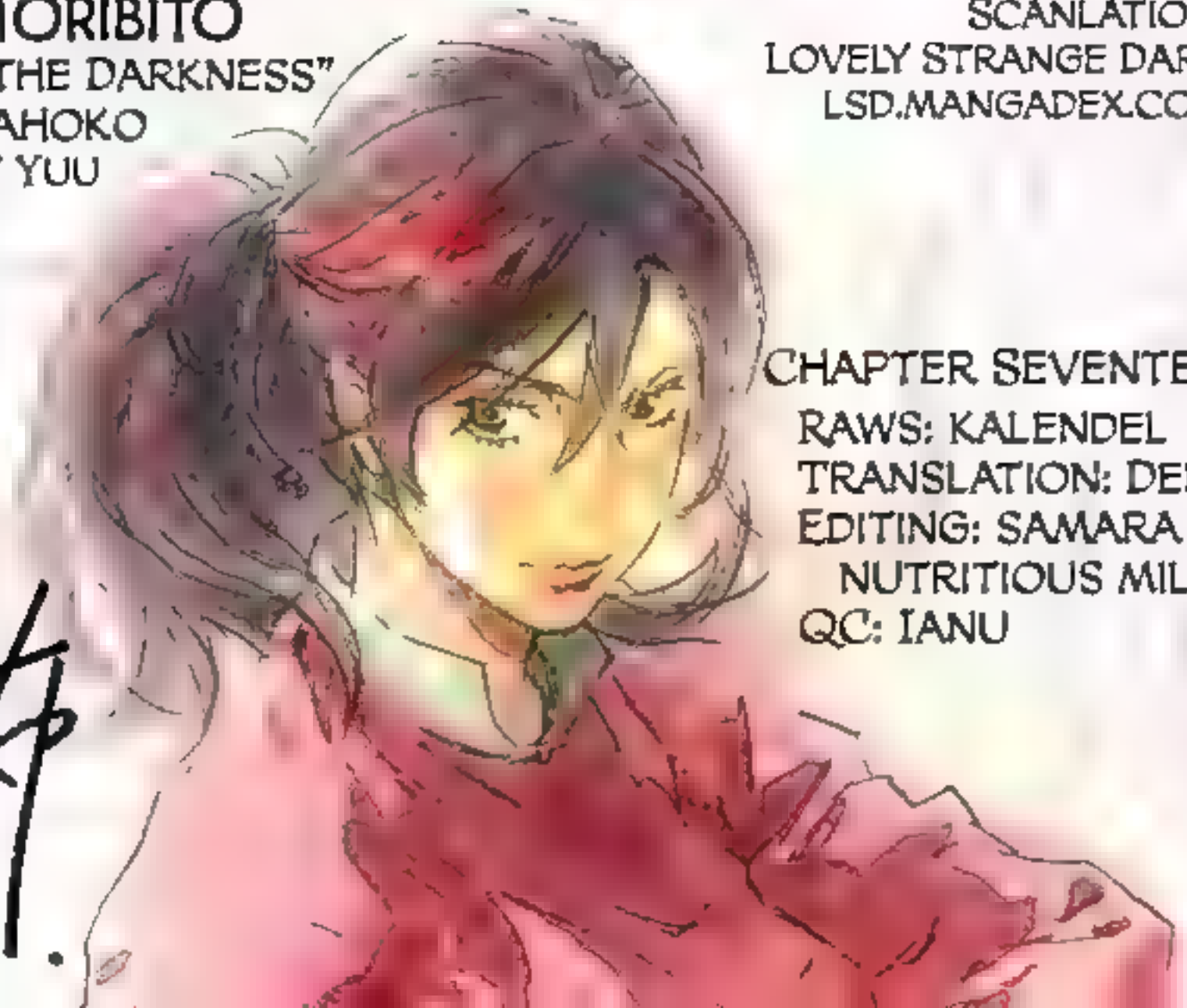
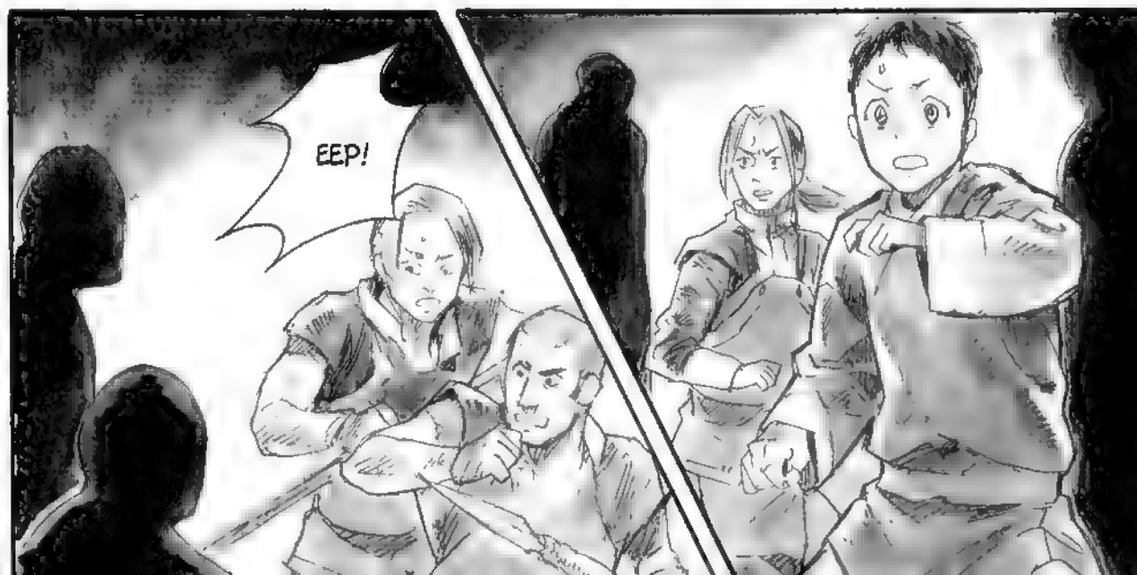


Chapter Seventeen

Raws: Kalendel
Translation: Den
Editing: Samara &
Nutritious Milk
QC: Ianu

YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 17



IT SEEMS LIKE THE HYOHLU ANSWERED MY CALL.
...GOOD. I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.
COME!
Wh
Sh
SEEMS SO.
heh

SHE'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE, FOR A WOMAN...
MIGHT AS WELL SHOW ME HER THROAT AND ASK ME TO KILL HER.
FWOOSH

KSHHHHH
jump

SHE'S FAST.

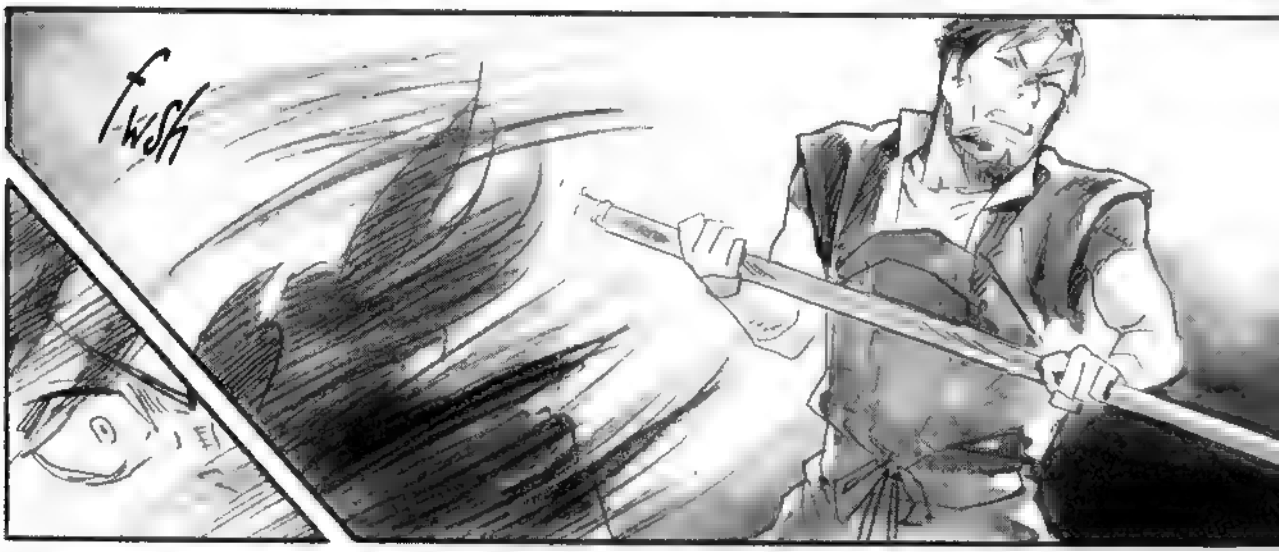
fwsh

KILL THIS WOMAN...
.....
I WILL
LEAVE THIS WORLD!
SWSH
grip
Hi ya aa aa aa!

WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
FWIP
CLANG
WHSH

WHOOSH
JUMP
ZOOM
THUD

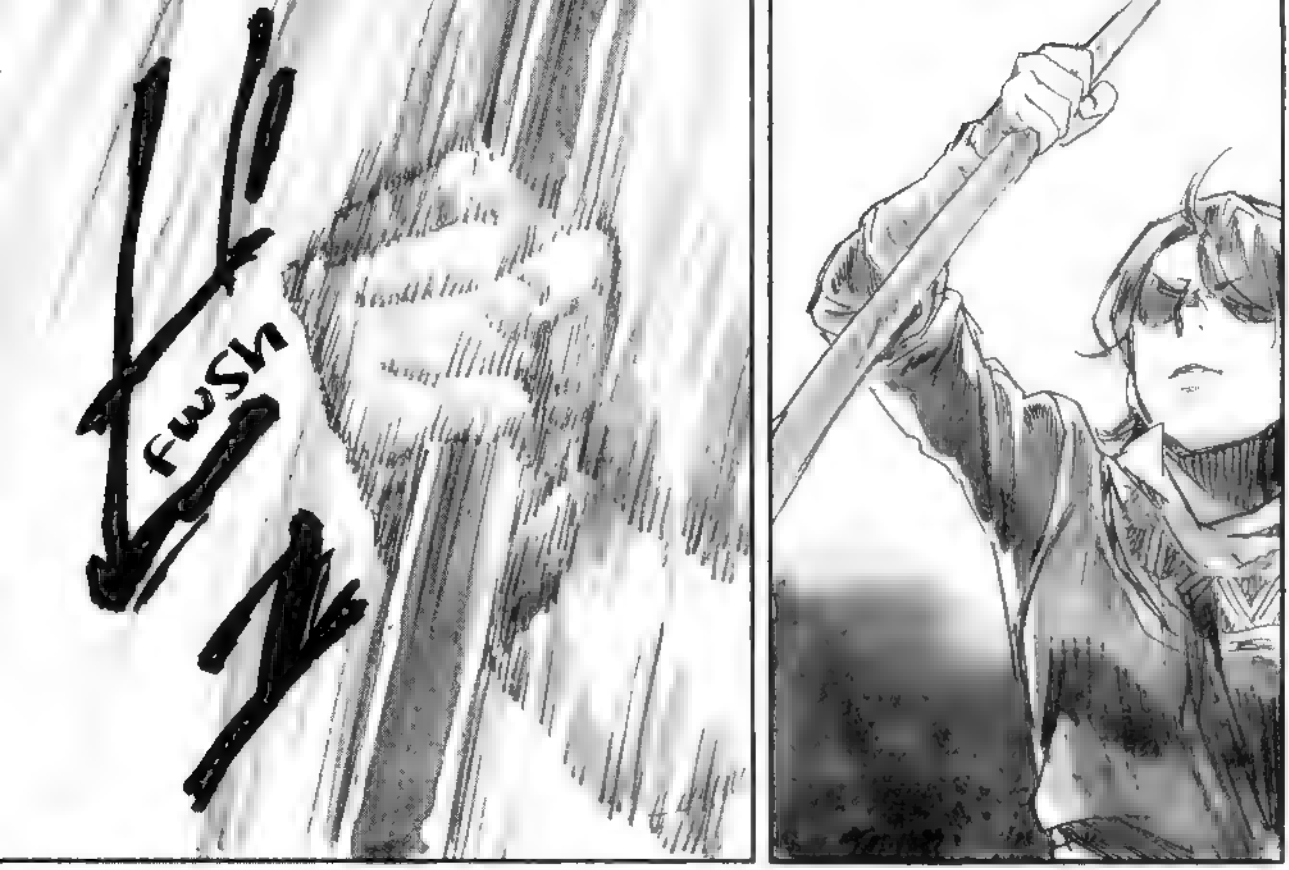
URGH!


FWSH

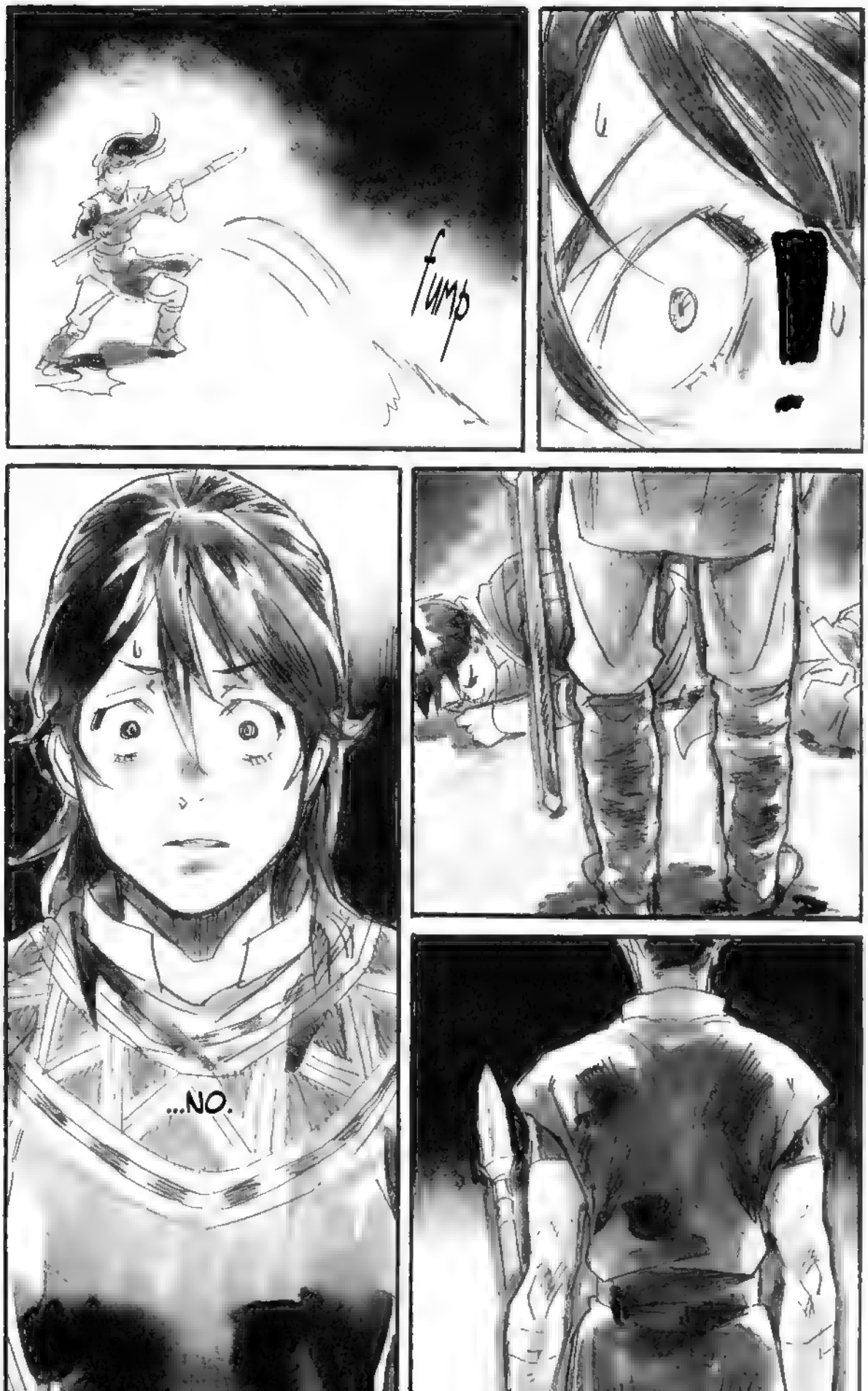
STAB

YANK
GAH!
Ugh...
KRSh
grit

...I'LL KILL YOU!


FWSH

Blank
CLANG


fump
...NO.

IT CAN'T BE...

...IS IT REALLY ...?

THEY ARE THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED FROM THIS WORLD...
THE HYOHLU ARE NOT SERVANTS OF THE MOUNTAIN KING.

AM I DREAMING ...?
...WHAT IS THIS?

SO YOU'RE A HYOHLU.
I SEE...
I'LL HOLD A MEMORIAL FOR YOU, BROTHER.
YOU CAN RETURN TO THE DEEP DARKNESS.
I CAN JUST SAY THE RIGHT WORDS TO CONSOLE HIM... THAT WAY HE'LL GO BACK PEACE-FULLY TO THE NETHER-WORLD...

BUT YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE MY BROTHER, AFTER ALL.
IT WAS AN UNTHINKABLE THING TO DO, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO REGAIN THE HONOR OF THE MUSA CLAN.
DO YOU HATE ME?
WHAT I DID MIGHT SEEM UNFAIR AT FIRST GLANCE,
CLENCH
krsh

KANBAL WILL THRIVE.
IT WILL BE REBORN. NO ONE HAS TO GO HUNGRY AGAIN. THE PEOPLE WILL BE HAPPY...
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOU!
BROTHER, OPEN THE DOOR TO THE PALACE OF THE MOUNTAIN KING.

YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?
YOU'LL GO FROM BEING A DISGRACE TO A TRAGIC LEGEND, AND EVERYONE IN KANBAL WILL BE THANKFUL TO YOU!
THIS FOOL...
Grit
AND IT STILL BINDS YOU EVEN AFTER DEATH.
YOU COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE PATH YOU CHOSE

OUT OF MISPLACED SYMPATHY? DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FELT, LIVING MY LIFE HIDING IN THE SHADOWS?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WHEN YOU RAN AWAY FROM KANBAL WITH SOME-ONE ELSE'S DAUGHTER

I STILL HATE YOU.

YOU BASTARD! DON'T MESS WITH ME! I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE MAD!

Ah!
UNCLE?!
SWIPE
Thd

SPURT
TWITCH
Gaah!
TWITCH
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
WHY WAS I THE ONE WOUNDED...?

YOU'RE DEAD! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP GETTING IN MY WAY?!
GO AWAY! GO AWAY, YOU BAS-TARD!

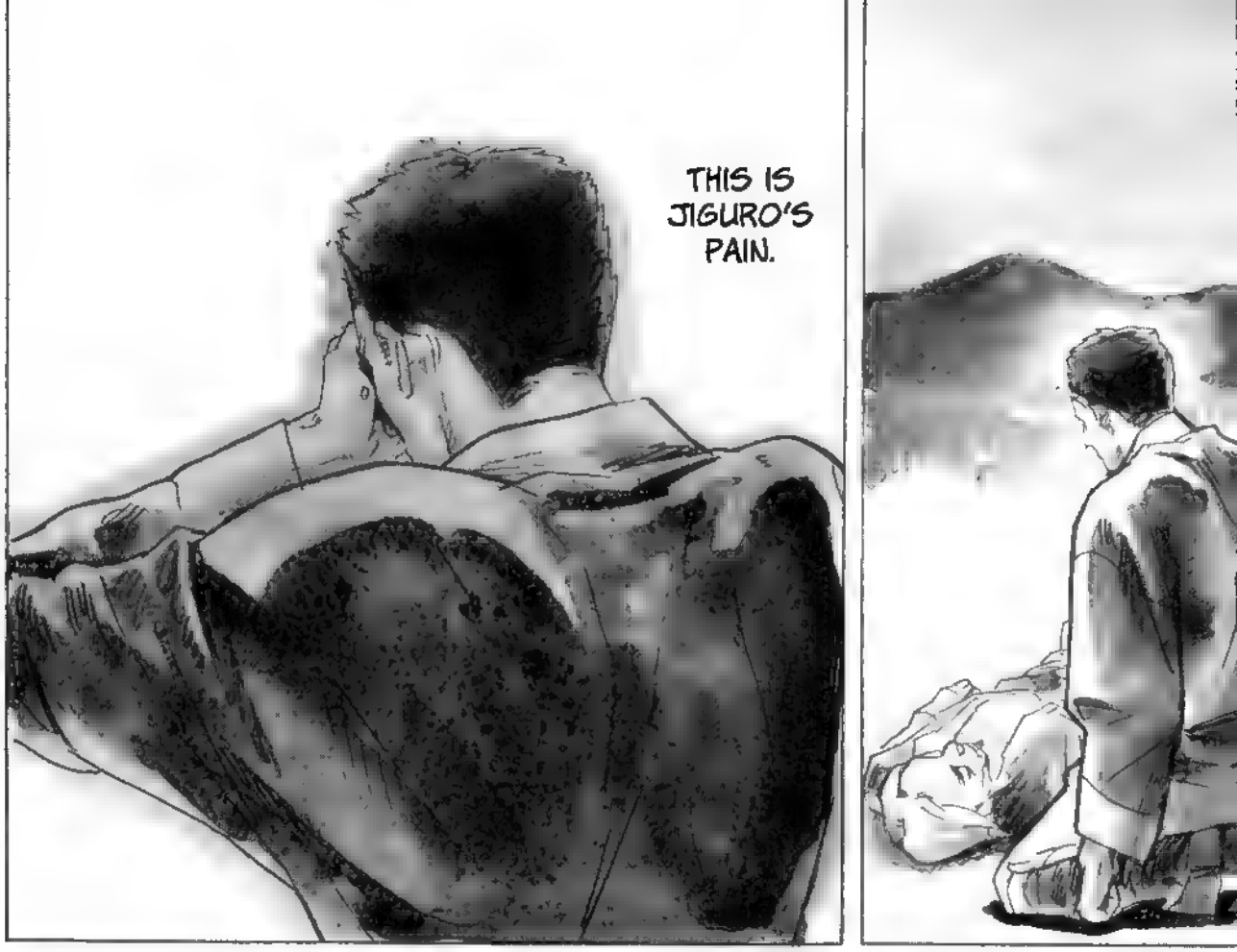
IF YOU REALLY ARE MY BROTHER, YOU WILL GIVE ME A LUISHA AND END MY SUFFERING!
IF YOU JUST WENT AWAY, I'D BE A HERO FOREVER!

BEGONE! BACK INTO THE DARKNESS FOREVER!

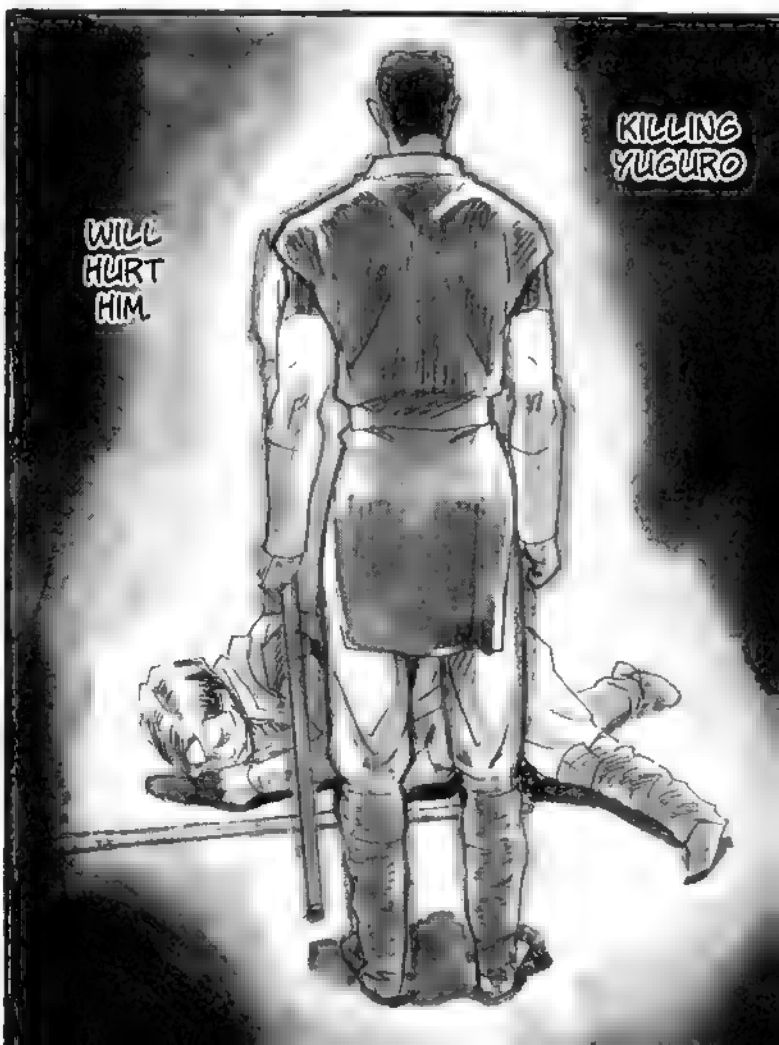
Grab

Oh!

JIGURO...


THIS IS JIGURO'S PAIN.

CLINK


KILLING YUGURO
WILL HURT HIM.

whSh
clang

swsh

JIGURO...
YOU CAN'T KILL YUGURO.
IF YOU KILL HIM, YOUR SOUL WILL FOREVER BE IN DESPAIR.

BALSA...

Oh!
DUN
CLANG

fwsh
jump
clack
whsh
PANG
lift
Thud

Clang
Clang
Clang
pat
THE SPEARDANCE HAS STARTED.
PRAY, KASSA.
PRAY THAT BALSA CAN PUT THE HYOHLU TO REST.
gulp

SLICE
jump

RIP
RIP
RIP
I WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO LIVE ON THE RUN.

IF YOU DIDN'T EXIST,

I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL MY FRIENDS.

BALSA... IF YOU DIDN'T EXIST...

YOU DID TOO!
IT WASN'T ONLY KING ROGSAM WHO ROBBED JIGURO OF HIS LIFE.
WE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED IN THE PRIME OF OUR LIVES.
IF YOU DIDN'T EXIST,
THAT'S RIGHT, BALSA...
UGH!
...
JIGURO HATES ME.
Slice

YES...
I THINK
I KNEW.
BUT...
WHY
ME?!

GAAAAAA
AA!!

I WAS ONLY SIX YEARS OLD!
Whack
Whack

WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE BACK THEN?!

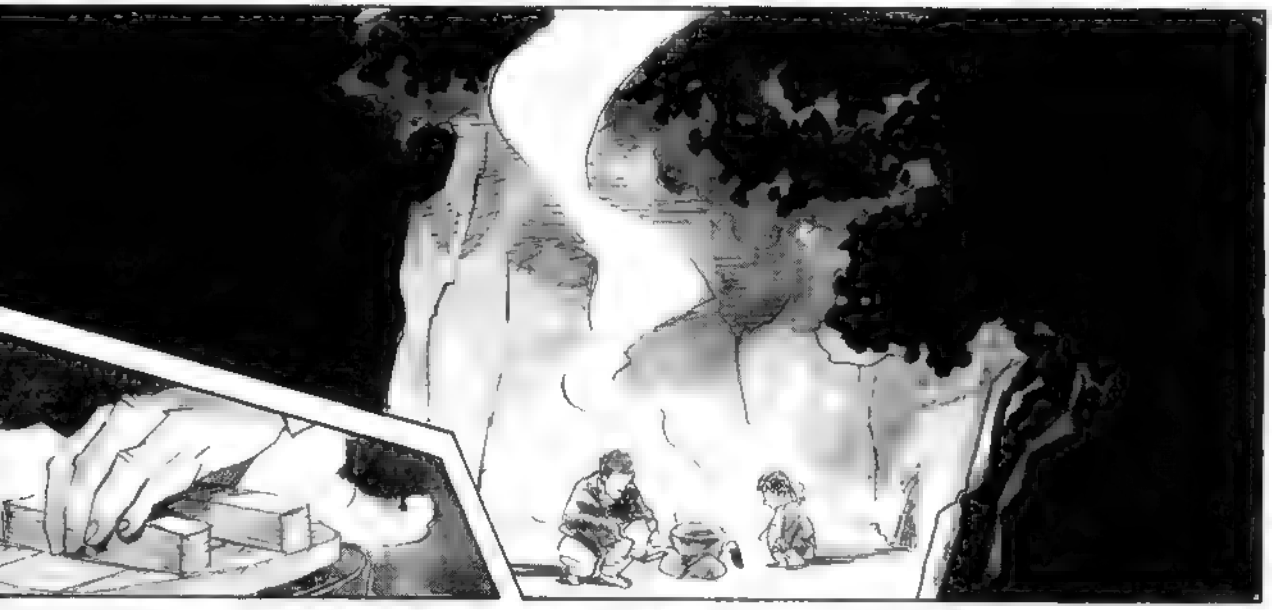
Slice
OR THAT I SHOULD HAVE KILLED MYSELF?!
ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BORN?!
GUSH

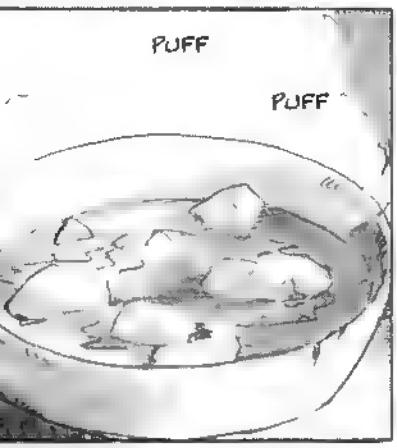
YOU DID THAT ON YOUR OWN!
I NEVER ASKED YOU TO SAVE ME!
turn

I COULD ALWAYS TELL THAT YOU HATED ME!
YOUR DEATH HURT SO MUCH! SO MUCH I COULDN'T STAND IT!
...I CARRIED THAT BURDEN WITH ME EVEN AFTER YOU DIED!!

Raaah!
IF I HIT HIS CHEST...
wobble

HOLD ALL THAT ANGER IN YOUR HEART AND KILL ME.
THEN MAKE YOUR WAY BEYOND THAT ANGER.





EVEN THROUGH
THAT SORROW...

Hehe
cough
cough
uff!
MUNCH
MUNCH

RUSTLE

COME HERE.

WITH ALL THAT PAIN...

= slip
JIGURO ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF ME.
HE HELD ME TIGHT.

THIS FAMILIAR SMELL...
Grab

...GOODBYE,
BALSA...

Yami no Moribito

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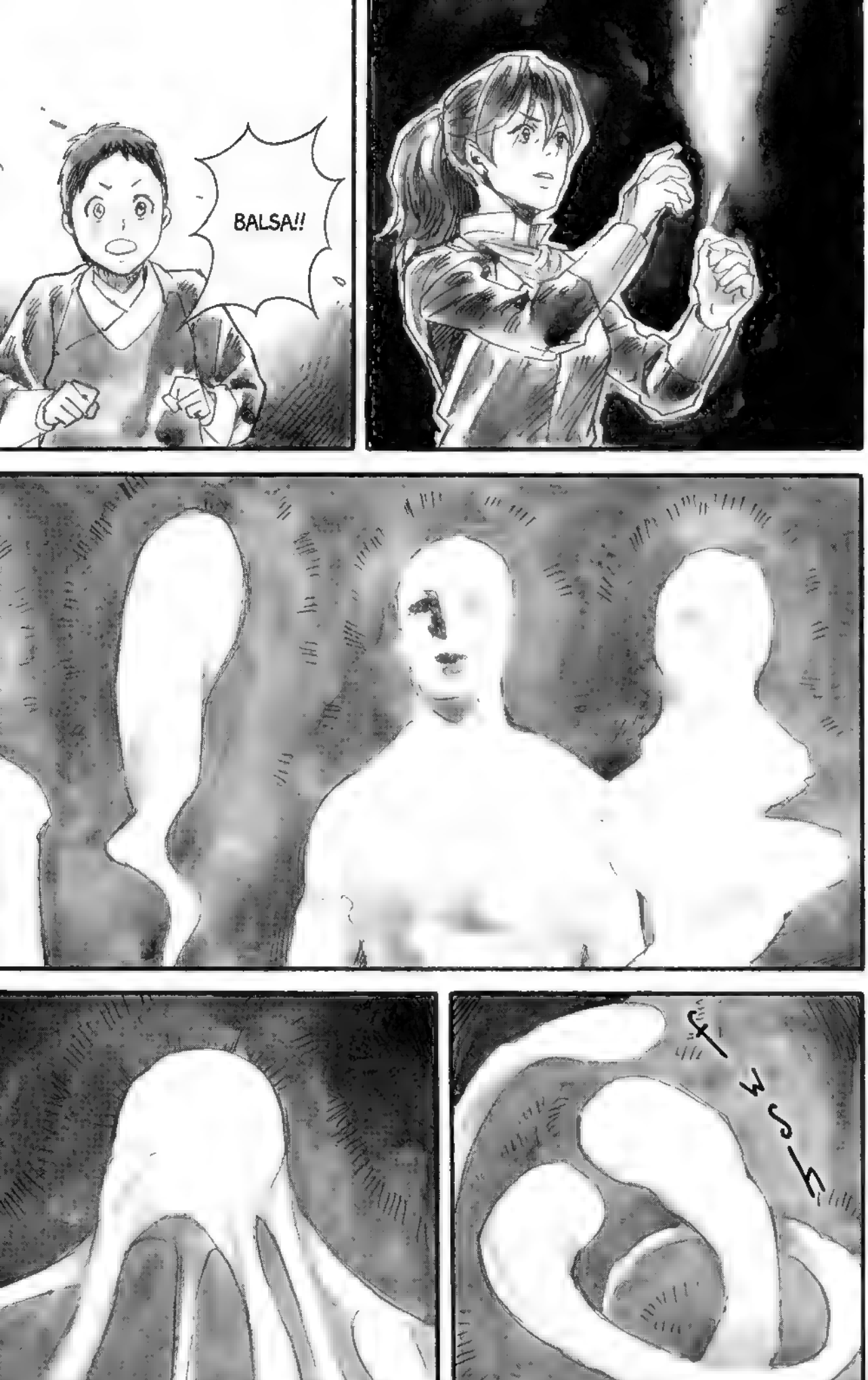
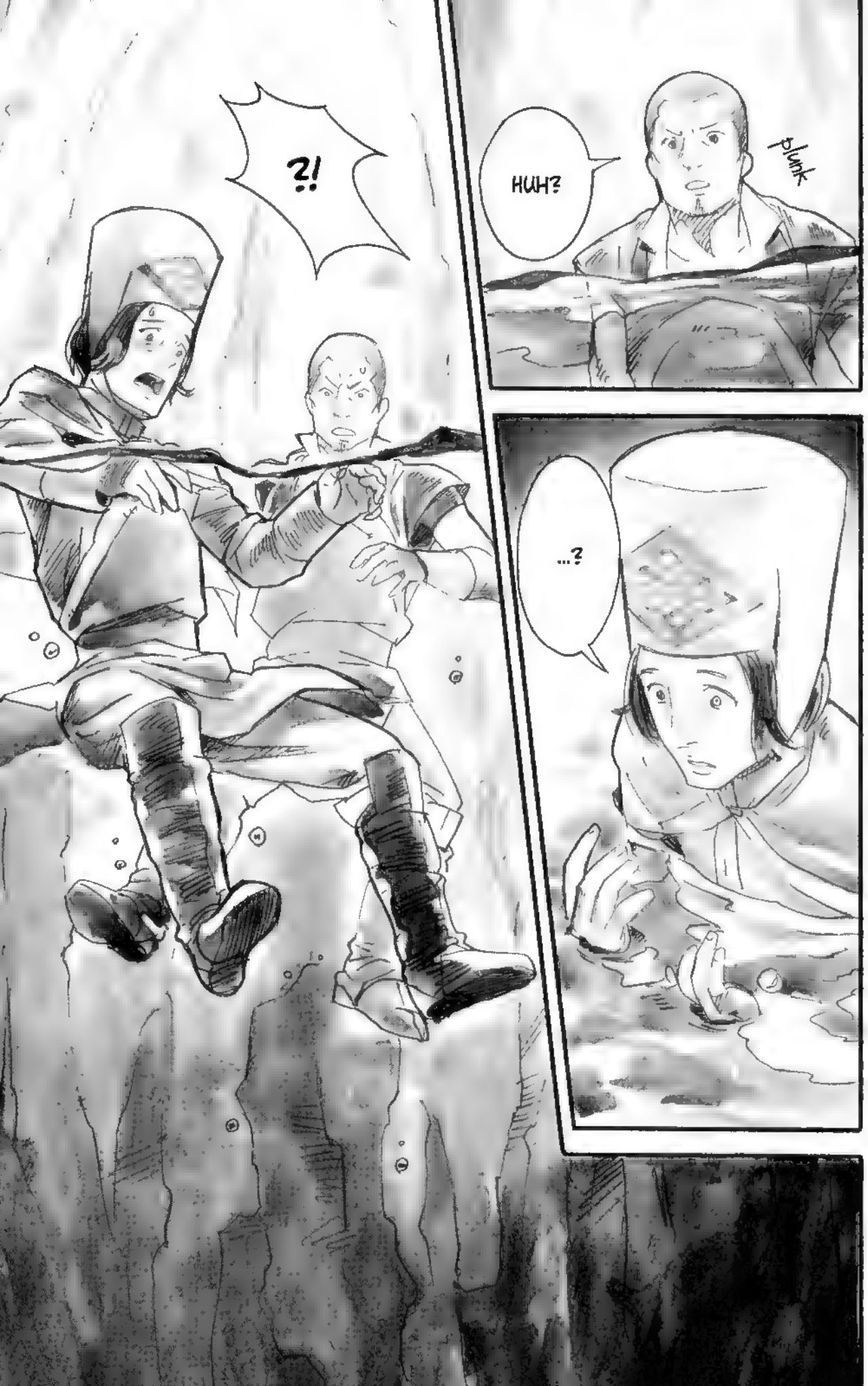
YAMI NO MORIBITO
CHAPTER 18

whoosh...


BALSA!!

blank
!!

...YOU!
WHAT THE HELL IS HAP-PENING?!
WAAAH!

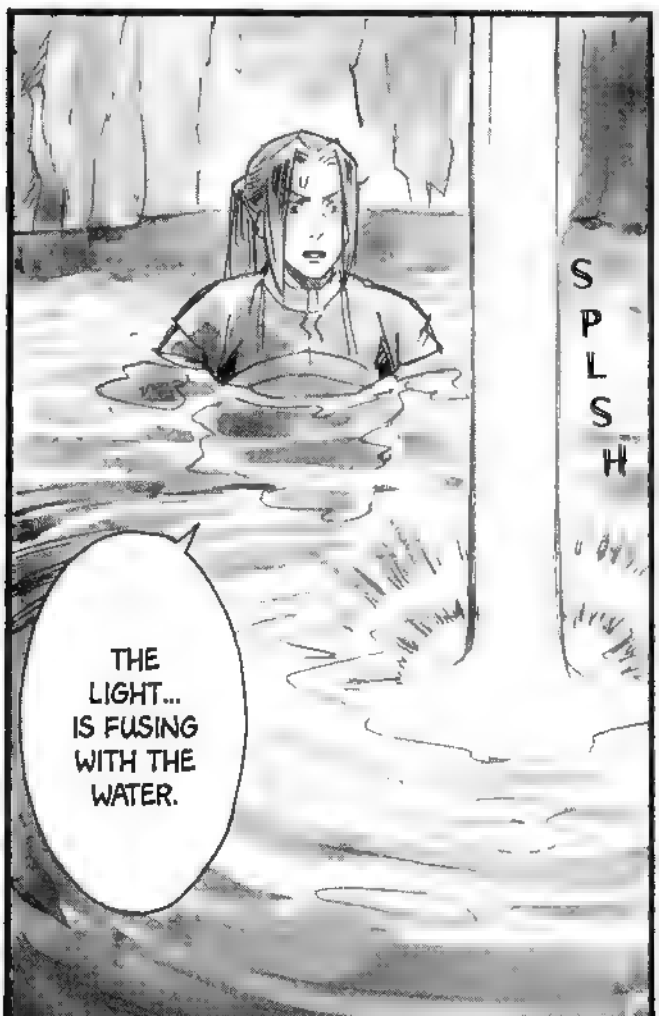

?!
HUH?
PLUNK
...?

WE'RE FLOATING IN WATER!
IT... IT'S WATER...

Shing

JIGURO...
WHSH
GLOW
whoosh
THE LIGHT IS WARM. IT FEELS FAMILIAR...

DAD!
BROTHER...


SPLSH
THE LIGHT... IS FUSING WITH THE WATER.

THEY'RE ALL SEEING
MANIFES-TATIONS OF LOVED ONES WHO PASSED AWAY...

FWSSSH

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
H... HEY! ARE THESE...?
THE ROCKS ARE SPARKLING BLUE.
GLINT
GLINT
GLINT

ARE THEY
REALLY ALL LUISHA?
THEY'RE LUISHA...!
Swsh

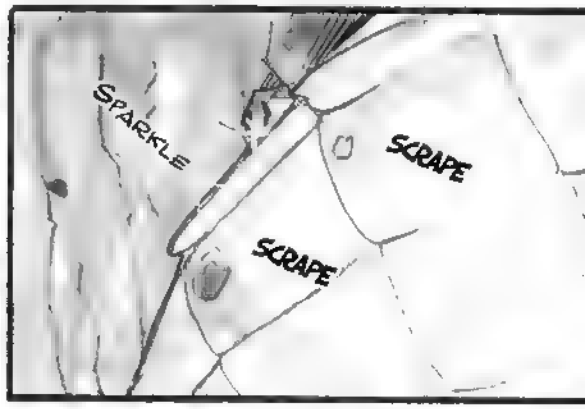
.....
Stare
WE... WE CAN'T TOUCH THEM. IS THIS AN ILLUSION?
SOOTEE LAN?
SPARKLE
WHAT THAT? THAT'S...

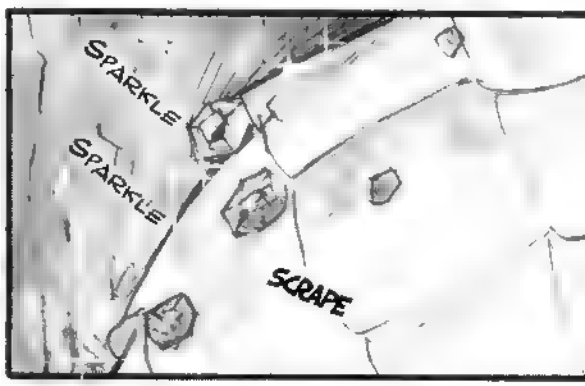
LOOK! WHAT IS THAT...?!
THAT'S NOT SOOTEE LAN... IT'S MUCH, MUCH BIGGER.
Wobble

...IS THIS THE MOUNTAIN KING...?
Oh!

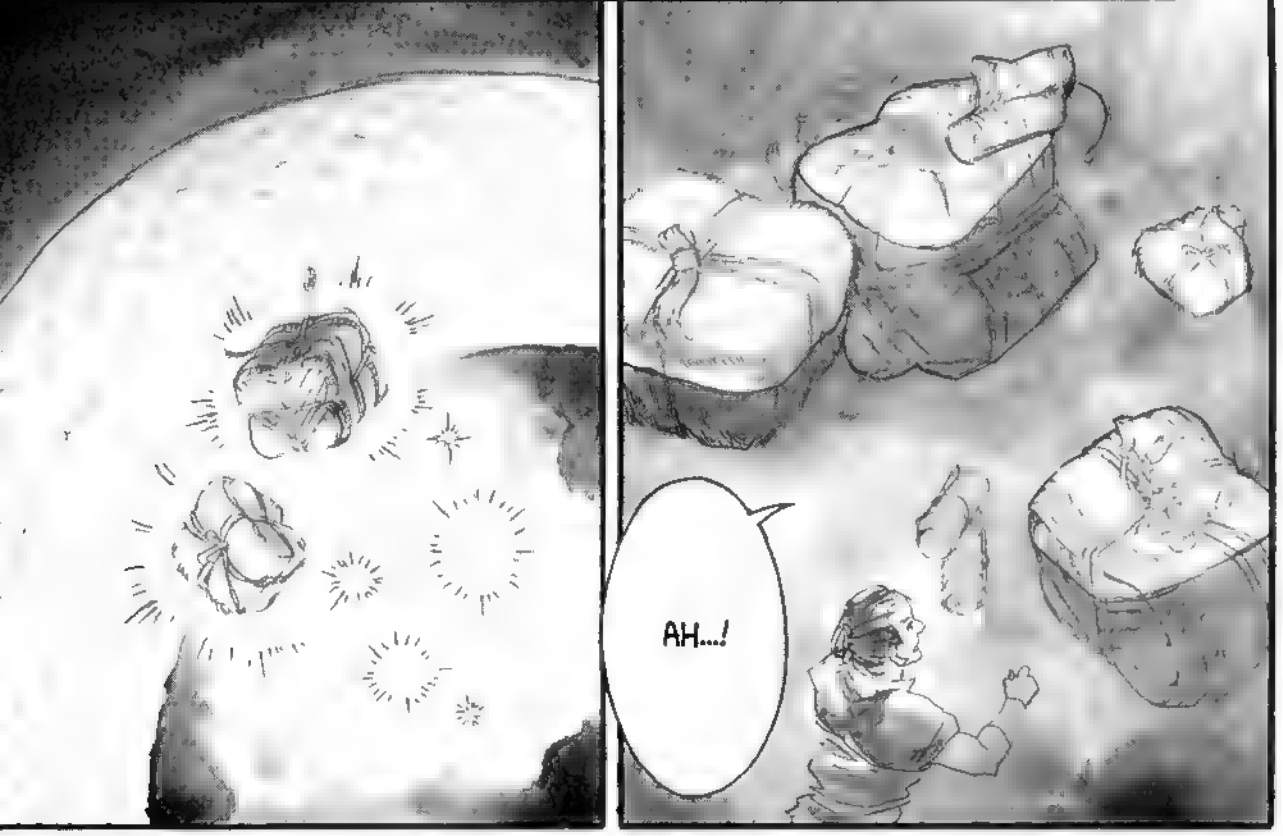
KRSHH
KRSHH

WHOA...
THE LUISHA ARE STICKING TO ITS SCALES.


SPARKLE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE


SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SCRAPE

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...


AH...!

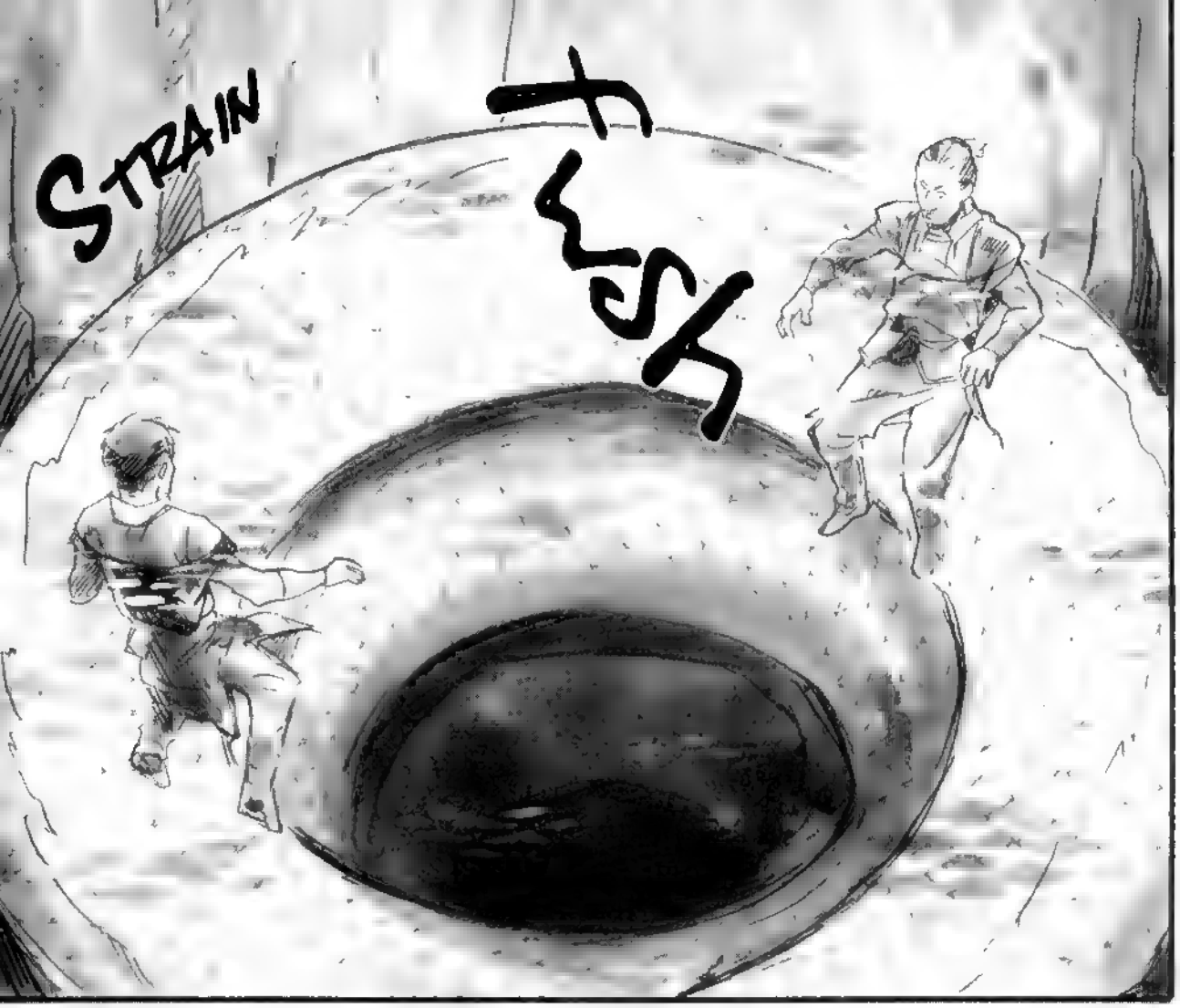
IT'S LIKE EVERYONE'S THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE BEING SWALLOWED BY THE SERPENT.
THE OFFERINGS ARE TURNING INTO BLUE LIGHT.
hisssss

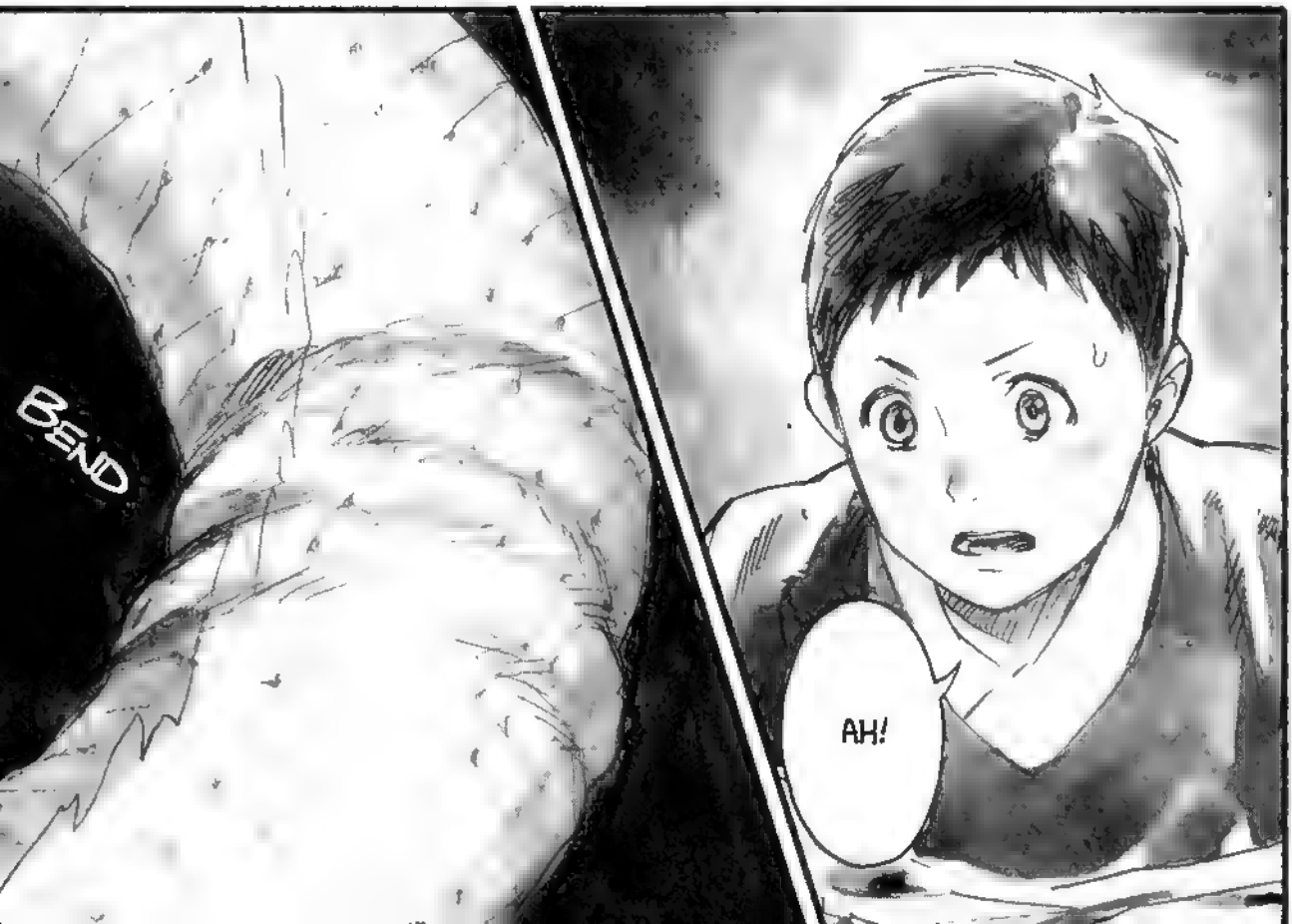
SPARKLE
SPARKLE

AAAAAAAAAAAH
AAAAAAAAAA

JIGURO...

UH...
drip
UHH...
drip


STRAIN
TUSK


BEND
AH!

THE SERPENT IS SHEDDING ITS SKIN.
fwsh
slip

IS THIS WARM FEELING IN MY CHEST...

WHAT...

HUH?!

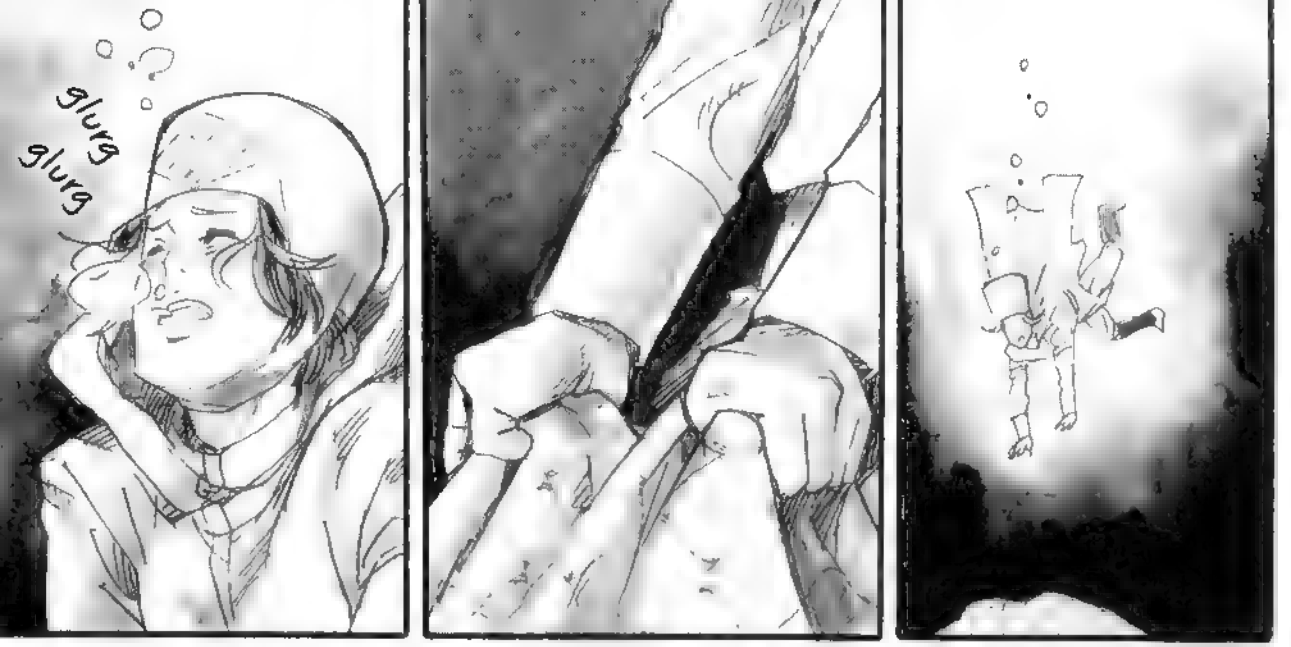
D-DO I GO GET IT?

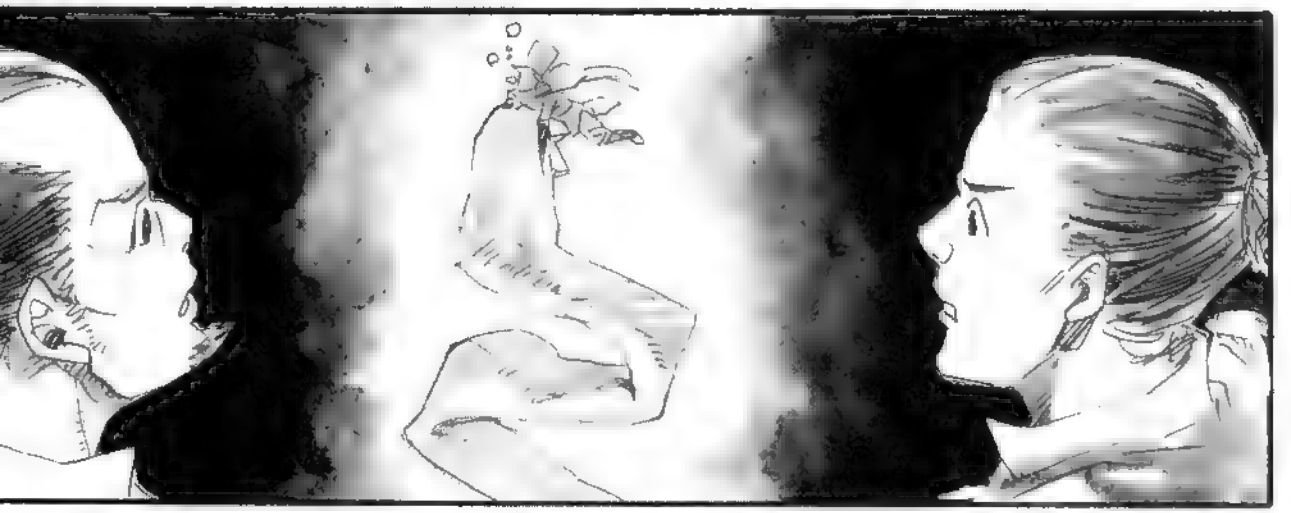
YOUR MAJESTY!

THE LUISHA! THE GIFT FROM THE MOUNTAIN KING!

AH!

Splash
...YUGURO! YUGURO...
WHERE ARE YOU?
YOUR MAJESTY!
DO YOU WANT THE PEOPLE OF KANBAL TO STARVE?!
GO!


glurg
glurg



YOUR MAJESTY!
WE'RE COMING!
NOD

SP
LASH

THE WATER'S GONE...
HUH?
HAA HAA HAA...
SO IS THE SERPENT...

THEY'RE LUISHA...!
Oh!
fiiiiiiiii

?!

SHEPHERDS...

THE PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAIN KING ARE HERE TO CALL ON YOU!

FROM THE DEATH OF THE OLD MOUNTAIN KING, A NEW KING IS BORN!
THE OLD KING'S SPEARS HAVE FOUND TRUE DEATH, AND A NEW JOURNEY OF LIFE HAS BEGUN!
LET THE LUISHA, TAKEN FROM THE OLD MOUNTAIN KING, RAISE THE CHILDREN OF KANBAL.
FROM THE DEATH OF THE OLD KING OF KANBAL, A NEW KING OF KANBAL IS BORN!

KING'S SPEARS, DID YOU WITNESS THE DARKNESS OF YOUR ANCESTORS IN THE MOUNTAIN DEEP?
WHEN YOU RETURN TO THE SURFACE OF KANBAL, YOU WILL ALSO BE HYOHLU, THOSE WHO GUARD THE DARKNESS.
MAY YOU BECOME HYOHLU AND PRESERVE THE LIFE OF THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE
UNTIL THE DAY THE DANCER APPEARS AND TURNS THE DARKNESS INTO BLUE LIGHT...

whoosh
swish

whoooooo

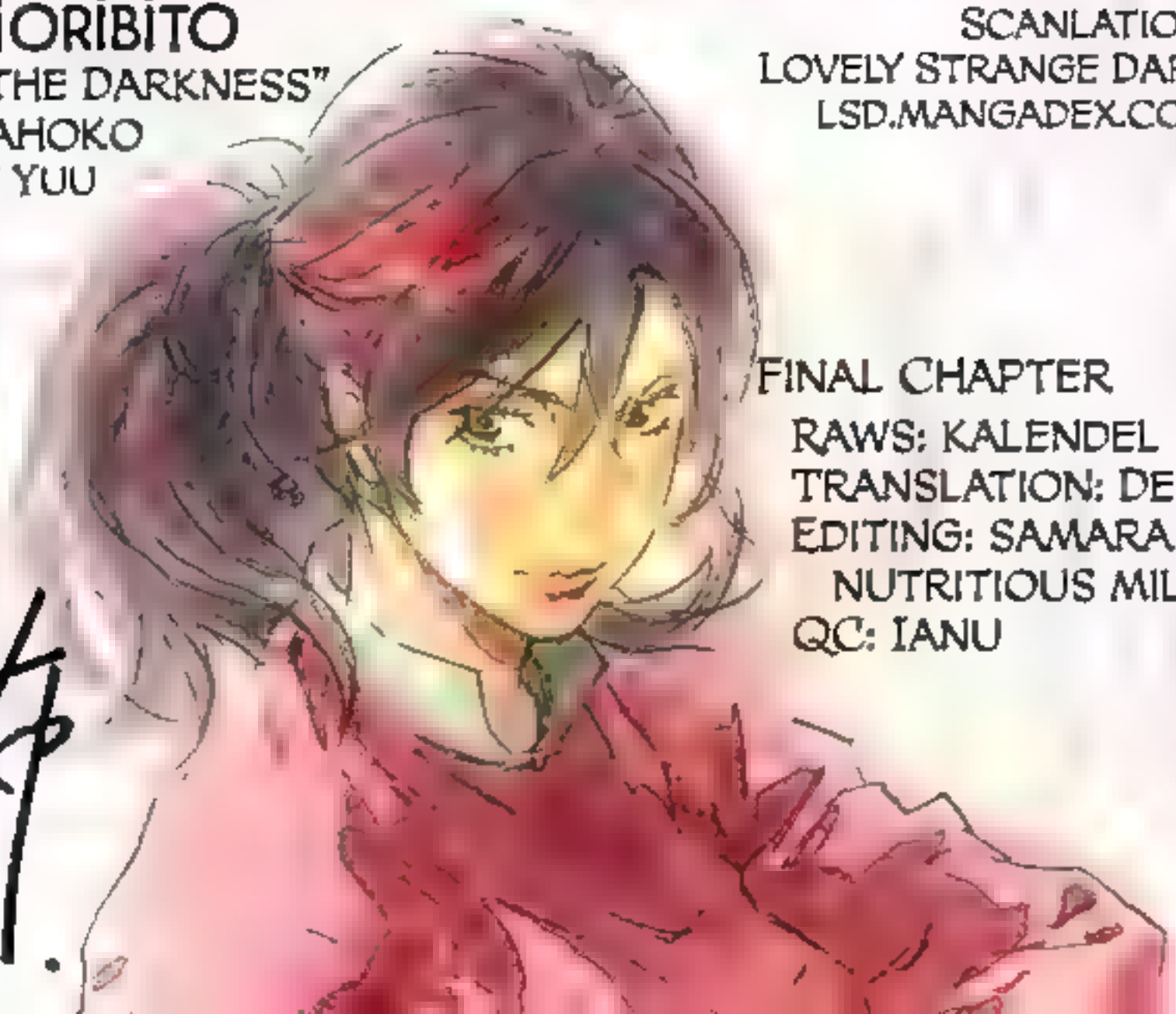
Yami no Moribito

"Guardian of the Darkness"

By Uehashi Nahoko

Illustrated by Yuu

Scanlation:
Lovely Strange Dark
lsd.mangadex.com



Final Chapter

Raws: Kalendel
Translation: Den
Editing: Samara &
Nutritious Milk
QC: Ianu

BALSA!
KASSA!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
YAMI NO MORIBITO
FINAL CHAPTER
ELDER TOTO...
THUMP

SO YOU KNEW, ELDER TOTO?
YOU KNEW WHO WAITED FOR ME UNDER-GROUND?
...PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR SENDING YOU OFF ON THAT JOURNEY WITH-OUT TELLING YOU EVERYTHING.
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THE HYOHLU WERE CALLING FOR SOMEONE.
WHEN I HEARD THAT A HYOHLU DROPPED THAT LUISHA NEAR GINA,

WHEN I MET YOU AND YOU SPOKE OF JIGURO,
I KNEW NO ONE ELSE COULD PUT THE HYOHLU TO REST BUT YOU.

THE SPEARDANCE CAN ONLY BE PERFORMED WHEN YOUR SOUL IS COMPLETELY EXPOSED.
DURING THE DANCE, THE HYOHLU WILL SEND HIS THOUGHTS INTO THE DANCER.

THE SPEARDANCE ISN'T USUALLY SO HARD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW SKILLED THE PERSON IS. AS LONG AS THE SPEARDANCER CAN CONNECT THEIR SOUL WITH THE HYOHLU,
THE HYOHLU WILL GIVE THE LUISHA.
BUT, THIS YEAR IN PARTICULAR, WE WERE WORRIED.
MANY OF THE HYOHLU WERE THOSE BETRAYED OR MURDERED, INCLUDING JIGURO.
THERE HAVE NEVER BEFORE BEEN HYOHLU AS DIFFICULT TO LAY TO REST AS THEM.

WHO ELSE BUT YOU COULD'VE DANCED THAT SPEARDANCE AND LAID THEM TO REST?
THAT'S WHY I WAS SURE THEY WERE WAITING FOR YOU.
IF I HADN'T, THE CEREMONY WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.
GOOD THING I CAME BACK TO KANBAL, THEN.
NO...
IT WAS DESTINY.
YOU WERE SURE TO RETURN HERE.

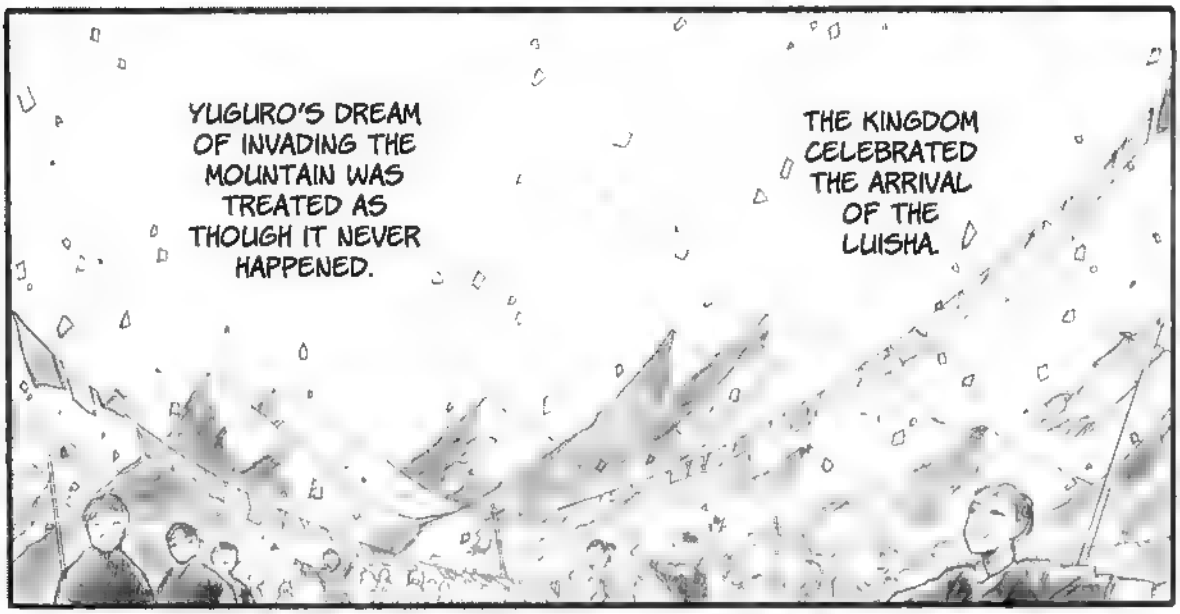
...WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
IT WASN'T ME HE WAS WAITING FOR.
IT WAS KING RADALLE.
DESTINY IS A CONVENIENT SCAPEGOAT TO HELP US COME TO TERMS WITH THE PAST.
ROGSAM ISN'T SOMEONE THAT THE HYOHLU WOULD GIVE A LUISHA TO.
AFTER KING ROGSAM DIED, I THINK THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE NEW KING TO BE OLD ENOUGH FOR THIS.
BUT...
THAT'S WHY THERE HADN'T BEEN A CEREMONY IN 35 YEARS.

I WONDER IF JIGURO WAS WAITING FOR ME.
HE CAME TO SEE ME IN THE CAVES BENEATH THE MOUNTAIN WHEN I RETURNED TO KANBAL.
MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT IN THAT REGARD...
THAT MY RETURN WAS WHAT TRIGGERED THE START OF THE CEREMONY.
AFTER THE CEREMONY, BALSA TOLD THE KING EVERYTHING ABOUT ROGSAM'S PLOT.

HOWEVER, SHE TOLD HIM NOT TO REVEAL IT TO THE PUBLIC.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE ROYAL FAMILY FIT TO BE KING.
THIS KING SAW INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE DARKNESS.
YOUNG AS HE IS, IF THE KING STEPS DOWN NOW, THERE'S NO ONE SKILLED ENOUGH TO REPLACE HIM.
HE SHOULD KEEP THE SECRET CLOSE AND THINK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS.

THEY ARE THE MEN WHO GUARD THE YUSA MOUNTAIN RANGE, WHICH GIVES LIFE TO ALL OF KANBAL.
THE HYOHLU ARE NOT THE SERVANTS OF THE MOUNTAIN KING.
THEY ARE THE CONSCIENCE OF KANBAL.
THEY PROTECT THE MOUNTAIN, AND IN DOING SO GUARD KANBAL FOR THEIR DESCENDANTS,
AT THE END OF THEIR LIVES, THEY THEN BECOME HYOHLU.
JUST AS ALL THE KING'S SPEARS OF THE PAST HAVE DONE BEFORE THEM.

krsh
krsh
ONE DAY IT WILL BE THE GRAIN OF LIFE THAT FEEDS THE PEOPLE OF KANBAL.
JIGURO'S THOUGHTS HAVE ALSO TURNED INTO LUISHA.
THEN THEY KNOW TRUE DEATH.
THE THOUGHTS AND SORROW OF THE HYOHLU WHO WERE LAID TO REST THROUGH THE SPEARDANCE ARE TURNED INTO THIS BLUE LIGHT AND SENT BACK ABOVE GROUND.
WE CALL THE LUISHA THE "THOUGHT STONE".
A GOD? A SPIRIT?
WHAT COULD WE CALL THE GREAT MOUNTAIN KING?
ALL TO PROTECT OUR KING.
WE WEAVE STORIES LIKE SHINING COCOONS PROTECTING THE INSECT INSIDE,
THAT'S A LOT DIFFERENT FROM THE STORIES WE WERE TOLD AS KIDS.
A PALACE MADE OF LUISHA, AND THE FINAL DOOR...


YUGURO'S DREAM OF INVADING THE MOUNTAIN WAS TREATED AS THOUGH IT NEVER HAPPENED.
THE KINGDOM CELEBRATED THE ARRIVAL OF THE LUISHA.

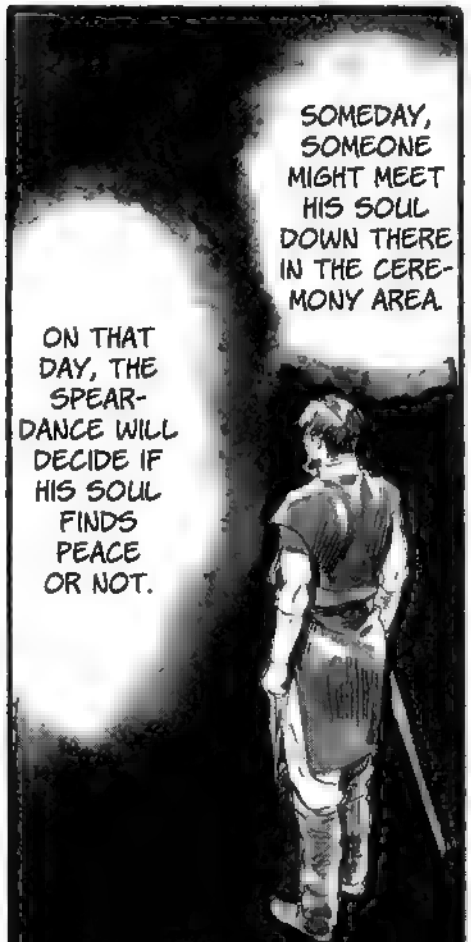
I COULDN'T STOP YUGURO EVEN AFTER HE HATCHED THAT STUPID PLAN OF HIS.
...I DIDN'T KNOW THAT JIGURO WAS CAUGHT IN YUGURO'S SCHEME AND FRAMED.

I SEE...

KASSA...
THANK YOU FOR STOPPING YUGURO.
I'M STILL JUST A SHEPHERD'S SON.
EVEN AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THE CAVES, IT FEELS LIKE NOTHING CHANGED.
clench
BUT...

THE WOUNDS I RECEIVED FROM YUGURO IN THE CEREMONY AREA WERE QUICKLY HEALED.
YUGURO...
THE MYSTERIOUS WOUND LEFT BY THE HYOHLU DIDN'T LEAVE ANY VISIBLE SCARS,
BUT THE PAIN REMAINED FOR A LONG TIME.

EXCUSE ME.
FLOMP
MUNCH
MUNCH


SOMEDAY, SOMEONE MIGHT MEET HIS SOUL DOWN THERE IN THE CEREMONY AREA.
ON THAT DAY, THE SPEAR-DANCE WILL DECIDE IF HIS SOUL FINDS PEACE OR NOT.

HIS HEART REMAINED THERE IN THE DARKNESS.

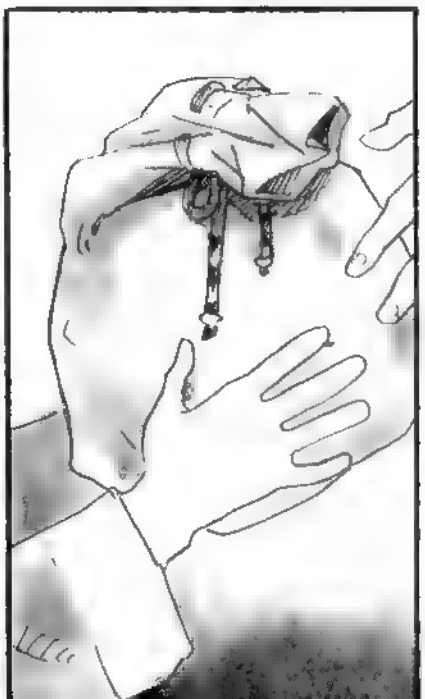
glub
glub
glub
glub
glub
AHHH...
fwsh

TANDA.
I WANT TO SEE
heh
AND TELL HIM ABOUT THIS JOURNEY.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT FIREPLACE

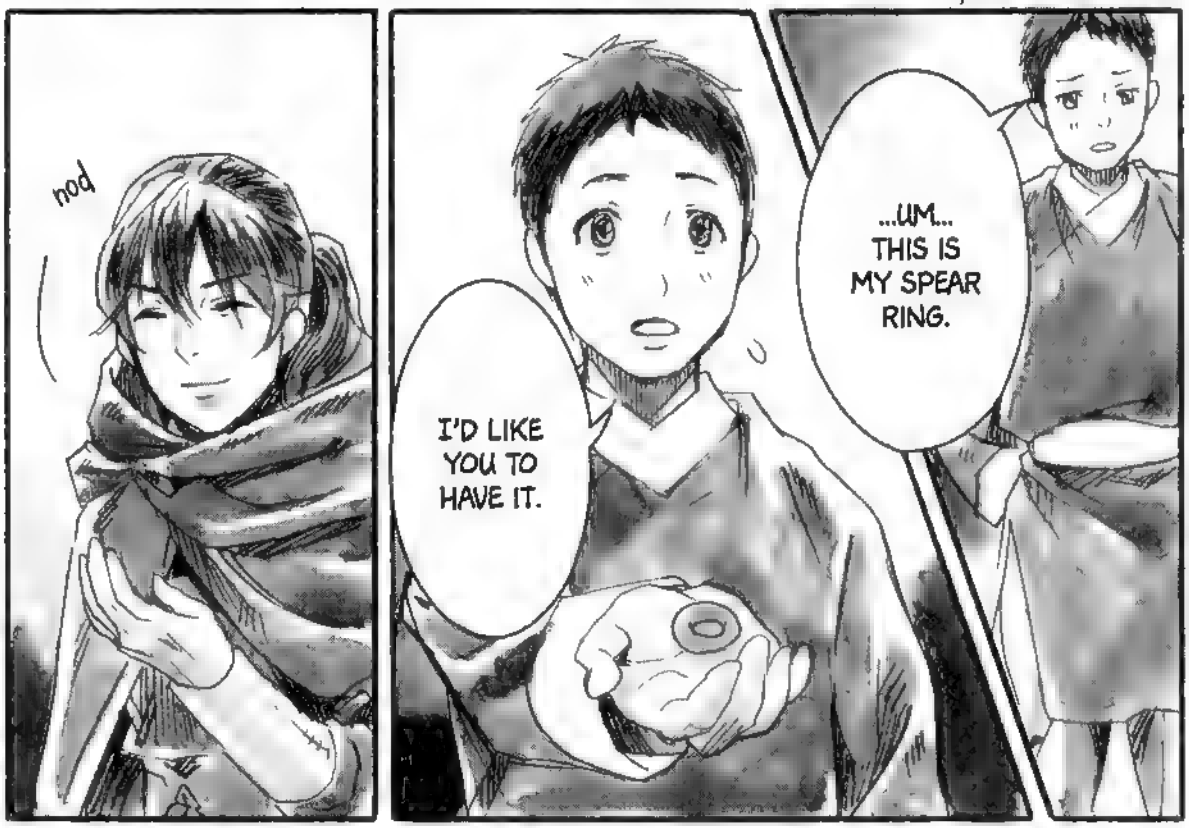
I'M THOROUGHLY RESTED UP.
YES.

...ARE YOU REALLY GONNA GO?

SO MANY DELICIOUS-LOOKING RAGA...
AND TOGAL AND YUKAL LEAVES, TOO...



jokom = roasted sweets



...IT'S DIRTY, THOUGH.
IT'S THE RING FROM JIGURO'S SPEAR.
CLINK
THEN I'LL GIVE YOU MINE.
WILL YOU TAKE IT?
THIS IS THE RING THAT JIGURO USED, THAT I USED. IT SAVED OUR LIVES.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT,
EVERYTHING STARTED BECAUSE KASSA AND GINA SAW THE HYOHLU THAT DAY.

BOTH PEOPLE WHO USED THIS RING BECAME SPEARDANCERS.
I DON'T THINK I HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE IT YET.
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING, BUT IF YOUR SKILLS KEEP IMPROVING AT THEIR CURRENT RATE,
I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BE A SPEAR-DANCER.
BECOME A GREAT SPEARMAN FOR ME.

YAMI NO MORIBITO
THE END

Scanlator note:

This is the manga adaptation of the second novel in Uehashi Nahoko's Moribito series. More information on the novel series, including English releases, can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moribito_series

As of 2019, the remaining novels have not been adapted to manga. But perhaps, one day, we'll get to see Balsa again. Take care and happy reading!